

Dear Illinois Senator/Representative _____,

After maxing out Illinois' Credit Card and failing to meet Illinois Pension Obligations, Governor Rod Blagojevich is pushing "All Kids" – a plan to saddle Illinois Taxpayers with even greater obligations. I'm urging you to vote against this plan.

Here are some reasons why.

- Illinois children already have access to health care. The Governor is using the fact that they don't necessarily have insurance coverage to mislead voters into thinking that Illinois children don't or can't receive care. Though currently 'uncompensated' by insurance, Illinois children do have access to Health Care.
- The proposed premiums are already more than premiums for private plans that offer more choice. Rather than put children in the bureaucratic and inefficient Medicaid System, Illinois could simply pay for a private plan that offers better services. The fact is that Illinois can afford to do neither at this point in time.
- This plan does nothing to reform Medicaid, which is already poorly managed here in Illinois.
- To cover the estimated 250,000 children, Illinois would require 5-6000 more primary care physicians to enroll in Illinois' Medicaid system. This is virtually impossible, particularly given Illinois record of low and slow Medicaid reimbursements.
- The Governor's plan is designed to induce private employers to drop "Family" coverage and place that burden on the state taxpayers.
- History shows that similar health plans instituted in other states are dramatically more expensive than originally billed. With Medicaid already growing at around 9% per year, adding this drain on the system will increase costs even faster.

With all of these problems, "All Kids" is a bad deal for Illinois. However, there ARE alternative solutions that are far better public policy. Here are some examples.

1. The state of Florida has asked for (and received) waivers from the Federal Government for innovative solutions to runaway Medicaid spending. The Florida program, likely to be a model for many other states, shifts from the traditional Medicaid "defined benefit" plan to a "defined contribution" plan. This innovation makes the state a "buyer" health care, but not the "manager."
2. South Carolina is proposing to establish personal health accounts for most of the state's 850,000 Medicaid recipients will "redefine health care in the United States." The account would be used to purchase private health insurance, or pay for care directly. And the amount of money allocated to each account would depend on the person's age, sex and physical condition.

These are the kinds of innovative ideas that State Legislatures should be looking into. Adding another "Welfare Benefit" to an already strapped system – all with out any reform of the current system – is bad policy. Please do your legislative duty, and craft a better future for Illinois.

Sincerely, _____