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## **QUINN BUDGET ADDRESS RECOGNIZES CRITICAL PROBLEMS; FAILS TO PROVIDE DETAILS**

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Manufacturers' Association (IMA) today commended Governor Patrick Quinn for recognizing the need for profound reforms in public pensions and Medicaid spending, but expressed disappointment in the lack of factual details. According to IMA President & CEO, Greg Baise, the governor set the right tone for reforms in pension and social services, but contradicted the tone of his State of the State address that encouraged a better environment for employers

“Governor Quinn’s blunt language challenging the General Assembly concerning the pressures our pension and Medicaid system are placing on the state budget was sorely needed,” Baise said. “Unfortunately, failing to provide lawmakers with the critical details of his plan makes it too easy to slough off real reforms.”

According to Baise, Governor Quinn should have presented specific ideas to balance the budget and eliminate the backlog of bills, reform pension plans that are \$85 billion underfunded, and reduce out-of-control Medicaid spending. Without changes to the state’s fiscal condition, it is extremely unlikely that the massive temporary \$7 billion income tax increase will be allowed to sunset in three years.

Baise was also critical of the tone set by the governor in dealing with Illinois’ employer community.

“Governor Quinn held out an olive branch to employers in his recent State of the State address; today he sounded eerily like his predecessor who suggested that businesses are tax cheats,” Baise stated. “The IMA is ready to engage and cooperate with the Governor and lawmakers in a comprehensive tax reform effort that will strengthen the economy. But the governor’s flippant suggestion that employers are somehow being underhanded when fighting for a better tax climate tax is an indication of inconsistency and populist rhetoric. Manufacturing companies—which can take a major role in helping revive this state’s economy—want to hear a clear and concise plan on how the Governor will stop the state’s downward fiscal spiral.”

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