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Contact: jenna@economicsecurity.us

STATEMENT: Economic Security Illinois Responds to Illinois General Assembly's Revenue Challenges

Springfield, IL – Today, advocates from the Fund Our Futures Coalition gathered outside the Capitol to urge support for a [budget](#) that generates revenue and consistent funding for essential programs to support Illinois' low- and moderate income families, including a Child Tax Credit. This action follows a [memo](#) issued last week by Governor J.B. Pritzker's office indicating that cuts to grant programs and discretionary spending would be required if the Illinois General Assembly does not pass new revenue sources in Illinois' FY25 budget. In light of these developments, **Erion Malasi, Director of Policy and Advocacy at Economic Security Illinois** responded with the following statement on behalf of the Illinois Cost of Living Refund Coalition:

“With the cost of living on the rise and growing demand for a state Child Tax Credit from families, advocates, union leaders, and even our own Governor, we call for a compassionate budget for Illinois. Our lawmakers must show courage and creativity by exploring progressive revenue options to ensure this year we can create and implement a robust Child Tax Credit that makes it easier for Illinois families to afford life's essentials, like rent, groceries, or clothing. We will proudly stand behind long-term progressive revenue solutions proposed by the Governor's Office, and any additional sources from the General Assembly if they can ensure the enactment and maintenance of critical policies that will help families flourish and reinvigorate our local economy.”

Advocates in the Illinois Cost-of-Living Coalition have been pushing for a Child Tax Credit for the past three years, in conjunction with allies in the House and Senate. Bills SB 3329 / HB 4917 introduced by State Senator Omar Aquino and State Representative Marcus C. Evans, Jr., respectively, would offer \$300 for Illinois families who earn less than the median income. Such a credit would benefit 1.4 million kids and [generate over \\$1 billion](#) in local economic stimulus. In February, Governor Pritzker delivered a promising budget address which called for the creation of a statewide Child Tax Credit that would return [\\$12 million to taxpayers with children under age 3](#).

The Illinois Cost-Of-Living Refund Coalition, which successfully led the fight for the Earned Income Credit expansion, is leading the advocacy effort for the Child Tax Credit. The coalition includes more than 50 nonprofit, labor, consumer advocates, immigrant rights, and grassroots, community-based organizations across the state. (See list of member organizations below).

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Economic Security Illinois Action is an affiliate of Economic Security Project Action.

[Economic Security Project Action](#) mobilizes resources and people behind ideas that build economic power for all Americans. As an ideas advocacy organization, we legitimize our issues by supporting cutting edge research and elevating champions, win concrete policy victories for the communities that need to see change now, and provoke the conventional wisdom to shift what's considered possible. Our team of academics, organizers, practitioners and culture makers disburse grants, run issue campaigns, develop creative interventions and research products to support the field, and coordinate events to encourage investment and action from others.

The Illinois Cost of Living Refund Coalition is dedicated to getting more money into the hands of Illinois families. Our 50+ members are composed of unions, community organizations, consumer protection groups, and nonprofits, including:

Age Guide	LIFT- Chicago
Brightpoint	Metropolitan Planning Council
Caring Across Generations	National Association of Social Workers, Illinois Chapter
The Chicago Community Trust	The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence
Chicago Jobs Council	New America Chicago
Chicago Urban League	New Moms
Chicago Votes	Parents Organizing to Win Educate and Renew - Policy Action Council (POWER-PAC)
Children's Advocates for Change	Raise The Floor Alliance
Citizen Action Illinois	Raising Illinois
Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI)	Service Employees International Union - Local 1 (SEIU-1)
Economic Security Illinois	Service Employees International Union - Local 73 (SEIU-73)
Economic Security Project	Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Equity and Transformation	Small Business Advisory Council
Grassroots Collaborative	Small Business Majority
Greater Chicago Food Depository	Stand for Children: Illinois
Easter Seals of Greater Chicagoland and Rockford	Start Early
Greater West Town Community Development Project	United Food & Commercial Workers - Local 881 (UFCW - 881)
Heartland Alliance	United Way of Illinois
Hispanic Federation	United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
Illinois Action for Children	UpTogether
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights	Warehouse Workers for Justice
Illinois Collaboration on Youth	Women Employed
Illinois Families for Public Schools	Woodstock Institute
Illinois Nurses Association	Worker Center 4 Racial Justice
Illinois Partners for Human Service	Young Invincibles
Illinois Public Interest Research Group	
Illinois Restaurant Association	
IUOE Local 150	
Latino Policy Forum	
League of Women Voters of Illinois	