



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706**

**ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
GOVERNOR**

July 31, 2007

Dear State Employee:

I am writing to thank you for your service as a state employee. I am asking for your cooperation to avoid a shutdown in government services by reporting to work tomorrow, and I want to make sure you are paid for the work that you do.

As I'm sure you are aware, on July 27th, I requested that the General Assembly act on a one month budget extension. One of my top priorities in making this request was to provide a measure of certainty for the employees of the State of Illinois. If the General Assembly takes immediate action on my request, then employees will continue to be paid on time, and all agencies will continue to have the resources required to operate.

Should the General Assembly not act on a one month budget extension while we continue to negotiate a full year's budget, then employees may not receive their paychecks on time. Despite this prospect, I hope you will continue to perform your duties until a full year's budget is in place. With your cooperation, the people who count on state government will experience no inconveniences.

I also want to let you know that several steps have been taken to protect the interests and well-being of state employees and their families:

- First, my office has been in communication with the leadership of AFSCME and other organizations that represent state employees. They have been reassured that all employees will be paid for work they have done and that the budget, when approved, will be retroactive to August 1st.
- Second, Credit Union 1 is ready to provide short-term, no interest loans to state employees, who are also credit union members. If you are not a member, you may join the credit union in the coming days and still qualify for a loan.
- Third, your employee benefits, including health insurance, remain in place even if there is an interruption in the state budget. You and your dependents can continue to seek the medical care you need, and use all other benefits.

Thank you for your dedication to the State of Illinois. In the days ahead, I am hopeful that, by working with you, we can continue to meet the needs of the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rod Blagojevich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor