

Gov. Pat Quinn: Respect Illinois Workers



- ◆ **Gov. Quinn is leading the charge to drastically reduce the pensions** of teachers, caregivers, law enforcement personnel, nurses and countless other public employees all across Illinois—even though all these employees have contributed to their pensions out of every paycheck while the state failed to pay its share.
- ◆ **Gov. Quinn is basing his assault on pensions on lies.** He’s saying that a state employee who retired in 1992 with a \$60,000 pension would have a pension worth \$120,000 today. In fact, that pension would be worth just \$108,000 today. But more importantly, almost nobody retired in 1992 with a pension that high. The average yearly pension for a retired state employee in 1992 was just \$8,400—and is worth just \$15,172 today.
- ◆ **Gov. Quinn is refusing to pay negotiated wage increases owed to some 30,000 state workers.** It’s wrong and unlawful for the governor to just trample on union contracts reached in good faith. What’s at stake are collective bargaining rights for all public employees in Illinois. If Gov. Quinn has his way, an independent arbitrator found, “the collective bargaining process will be...severely undermined.”
- ◆ **Gov. Quinn is trying to lay off more than 3,000 employees in communities across Illinois.** Quinn’s plan would increase the ranks of the jobless at a time when unemployment is already high and local economies are weak. It would also slash vital services to individuals with severe disabilities, undermine security in state prisons, and undercut the state’s ability to protect abused and neglected children.
- ◆ **Gov. Quinn gave out big tax breaks to big corporations.** Now he wants to make frontline employees and retirees on fixed incomes bear the brunt of the state’s fiscal problems. We’ve already made sacrifices—and we’re willing to do more. But we shouldn’t have to bear the entire burden.
- ◆ **Public employees are helpers, problem solvers, the people you can turn to in times of need.** We want to be part of the solution to Illinois’ problems just as we solve problems in our communities every day.