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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

JUL 08 '07 -5 30 PM

SECRETARY OF STATE, INDEX DEPT.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 5 of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 requires the State to provide pension benefits to members of State-sponsored retirement systems; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois sponsors a retirement plan on behalf of State university employees; and

WHEREAS, State university employees, retirees and their families rely on the security provided by pension benefits to meet their needs, including food, housing and healthcare after retirement; and

WHEREAS, it is the State Universities Retirement System's (SURS) mission to provide for annuitants, participants and their employers, in accordance with State law, the best and most cost-effective benefit administration services in the United States; to manage and invest the fund's assets prudently; and to endeavor to achieve and maintain a financially sound retirement system; and

WHEREAS, pensions managed and administered by SURS are under-funded, and the General Assembly has not passed any measures that address such under-funding; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Constitution requires the General Assembly to make appropriations for the expenditure of public funds for the fiscal year for State departments, authorities, and public agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Healthcare and Family Services' Division of Medical Programs assists sexual assault victims; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has passed, and I have signed, a temporary, one-month budget providing spending authority to the Department of Healthcare and Family Services for grants to provide assistance to sexual assault victims and for sexual assault prevention activities; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly failed to provide for the expenditure of public funds after July of Fiscal Year 2008 for grants administered by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to provide assistance to sexual assault victims and for sexual assault prevention activities;

THEREFORE, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 (b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby call and convene the 95th General Assembly in a special session to commence on July 9, 2007, at 1:00 p.m., to consider any legislation, new or pending, which will address the funding of the State Universities Retirement System as well as funding for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2008 for grants administered by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to provide assistance to sexual assault victims and for sexual assault prevention activities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod Blagojevich", written over a horizontal line.

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor

Dated: July 8, 2007

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