

State Universities Annuitants Association

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RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNOR'S FY 2010 BUDGET

- We commend Governor Quinn for courageously recognizing the State's fiscal deficit and proposing an increase in the income tax.
- We appreciate that in this time of economic turmoil, the Governor has recognized that investment in public higher education is part of the solution.
- We are committed to supporting efforts by the Governor and the General Assembly to increase revenue in a fair and equitable way to meet the needs of the people of Illinois, especially at all levels of the public education system.

HOWEVER,

- We must say **NO** to the Governor's proposals that would place much of the burden for closing the budget gap on the State's employees, including those at our colleges and universities, and on retirees.
- We must say **NO** to increased employee pension contributions that would force employees to pay for past administrations renegeing on its obligation to appropriately fund that system.
- We must say **NO** to another proposed "pension holiday" which would further undermine the integrity of the university pension system.
- We must say **NO** to the creation of a 2nd tier benefit system for future employees, when the evidence is clear that present benefits are neither extravagant compared to other public pensions nor unduly costly in comparison to the alternatives.
- We must say **NO** to increased health insurance premiums, particularly those that would most adversely affect our oldest and most vulnerable retirees.