Poor and middle income Illinois taxpayers have a greater percentage tax burden than the wealthy. This unfair tax burden starves our public schools and universities of needed resources and hurts our economy.

A Graduated Income Tax is the Fairest Tax because it taxes citizens based on earned income and ability to pay. The federal tax system and almost all other states in the nation currently utilize a graduated income tax because of its inherent fairness to taxpayers.

**Why Illinois needs a graduated income tax.**

It creates jobs.

Low and middle income families by necessity put more of their disposable income back into the economy, thus stimulating the economy. Wealthier individuals are able to save more and spend less of their disposable income, thus keeping money out of the economy. Graduated tax policies more fairly distribute the tax burden and put more spending money back into the hands of working families who spend it, which creates jobs. Modestly increasing taxes on more affluent citizens does not materially reduce their spending.

It allows Illinois to keep its promises.

It’s time for Illinois to keep its promises. Illinois needs a graduated state income tax to stimulate the economy, create jobs, raise sufficient funds to pay overdue bills, adequately fund its underfunded schools, rebuild infrastructure and fairly fund its pension obligations.

The IEA is calling on the Illinois General Assembly to put the question to a democratic vote of the people. Urge your legislators to support a Constitutional Amendment for Graduated Taxation.

In recognition of this disparity, the 2011 IEA Representative Assembly passed a motion that calls on the IEA to change the system by promoting passage of a Constitutional Amendment for a graduated income tax. The motion also directs the IEA to promote efforts to close tax loopholes that allow wealthy individuals and corporations to avoid paying a fair share of taxes.

Illinois remains 46th of 50 states in state spending on public schools. It simply does not have the money to bring equity to school funding. This punishes school children based on the wealth of the community in which they live. For the overall fiscal health of the schools and the state, new revenues must be secured that do not add to the burden of poor and middle income taxpayers.

**Illinois needs fair taxation.**

**Illinois needs a graduated income tax.**