



FACT SHEET

OCTOBER 28, 2009

HJRCA 37 OPPOSE

Sponsor: Representative Keith Farnham

HJRCA 37 would limit spendable tax revenue to the previous year's level, adjusted for inflation and population and is commonly known as the "Taxpayer Bill of Rights" (TABOR). Though the concept might sound attractive, it would create a permanent revenue shortage, starving vital public services and restricting the ability of elected officials to respond to imminent public health and safety threats.

The State of Colorado adopted similar legislation in 1992, but then suspended it in November of 2005. In those some 13 years:

- Average teacher salary in Colorado compared to average pay in other occupations declined from 30th to 50th in the nation.
- Higher education funding per resident student dropped 31%, which translated into an increase in tuition of 21% for students.
- Colorado dropped to 50th in the nation for vaccinations for children. Instead of finding funding for vaccinations for children, the state simply eliminated the requirements for children being vaccinated against certain conditions.
- Colorado dropped from 23rd to 48th in the nation in percentage of pregnant women receiving adequate access to prenatal care.

If enacted in Illinois:

- State programs, services, and schools would be pit against each other for survival each year and any new initiatives to address unmet or emerging needs would be ruled out.
- Vital public services, such as education, public safety, and public health would be jeopardized. The state's ability to quickly respond to its citizens in the event of a natural disaster or terrorist attack would be impaired.
- Even if new revenues are enacted, the state would be unable to pay off its past due bills and chronic pension liabilities without massive cuts to education and health care.
- If the federal government were to appropriate funding to Illinois, the General Assembly would not be able to spend ALL of the money appropriated. They must follow the strict percentage increase year to year.

The Illinois AFL-CIO and its public employee unions ask you to oppose HJRCA 37 in light of the devastating consequences it could cause the citizens of our state.



TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL 25