

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 11, 2016

The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Governor of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

We write to express our dismay over the plight of students in our state. As you may know, because of the prolonged budget impasse many Illinois colleges and universities have been scrambling to solve growing budget shortfalls. This has led to extreme measures, directly preventing our constituents from bettering their situation through education. Recent events at Chicago State University and the Illinois Institute of Technology exemplify these extreme measures and highlight a crisis that we urge you to use your authority to solve.

This week, Chicago State announced preparations for massive layoffs starting April 30. They have sent notices of potential termination to all 900 of their employees, including 300 faculty members. A pillar of the Chicago's South Side, Chicago State is in danger of no longer being able to offer students a quality education at an affordable price. The Illinois Institute of Technology was recently forced to announce that students will need to pay back the grants they received through the Monetary Assistance Program this fall and a suspension of all assistance for the spring. Students are now being forced to choose between paying their grant money back immediately, accepting a 12 month loan at 6.8 percent interest or being denied from class registration, effectively forcing them to drop out.

In February, you vetoed a bill that could have helped solve this problem, publicly stating that this is "a very tragic situation" and "a failure of the government." As the Governor of our state, you have the responsibility to rectify these tragic situations and ensure that government operates properly.

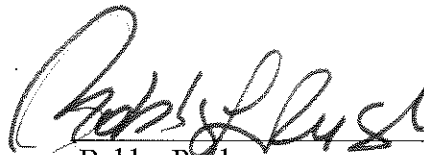
We implore you to consider how funding education will improve our shared prospects and increase future revenue. Making the right choices now will have long term benefits. This issue is too important to our future to do nothing.

We urge you to reconsider your veto and become part of a solution to this problem.

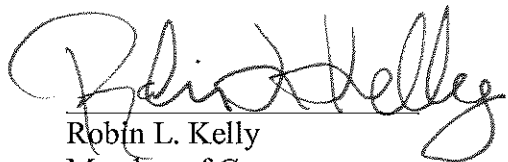
Sincerely,



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



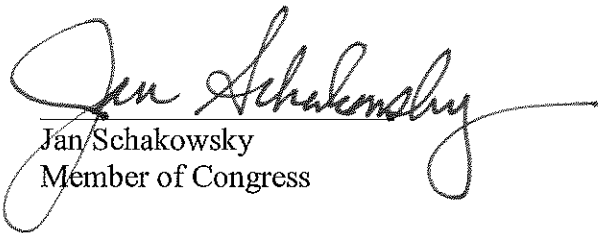
Bobby Rush
Member of Congress



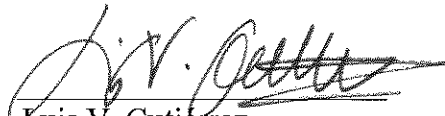
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



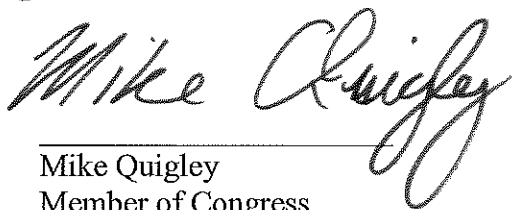
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



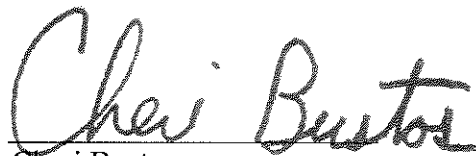
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress