

I C C T A
ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

October 24, 2003

Hon. Michael J. Madigan
Speaker of the House
Rm. 300, State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Speaker Madigan,

This letter is to inform you that Governor Blagojevich amendatorily vetoed the FY 2004 appropriation for community colleges contained in House Bill 2671 co-sponsored by you and Rep. Hannig. In a surprise move, the Governor applied an item reduction veto to a General Assembly negotiated provision reducing the original \$7.4 million appropriation to \$3.7 million. The Illinois Community College Trustees Association is requesting that the General Assembly override the item reduction veto in House Bill 2671 and restore the appropriation to \$7.4 million.

A new funding formula was developed in direct response to leadership requests in the General Assembly. This formula was designed in consultation with the Governor's Office. It recognizes significant changes in student enrollments and student needs. We appreciate your efforts and support of the of the General Assembly to fully fund the \$7.4 million appropriation needed to mitigate the negative impact to many colleges. The appropriation is a critical element of the new funding formula and is designed to help community colleges adjust to the resulting new base operating grant allocations. Thirty of thirty-nine community colleges are negatively affected by the item reduction veto and were to receive funding to make up the losses that occurred by moving to a new formula. The new funding formula was intended to be implemented only if the negative impact funds were fully appropriated. Since the full appropriation was approved by the General Assembly and the new allocation formula was included in Budget Implementation Act (Senate Bill 744), the new formula was required. The negative impact funding line item was later reduced after the formula had been approved in the Budget Implementation Act.

We are requesting your assistance in restoring the appropriation to its full amount. This action will help the community colleges maintain quality, access and services to the students and the community. The original appropriation was contained in House Bill 2671, in Article 3 on page 18 lines 17 – 22 as follows:

Section 120. The sum of \$7,416,200, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Illinois Community College Board for grants to community college districts that are negatively impacted by the changes in the Base Operating formula in Section 2-16.02.

The Illinois Community College Trustees Association will appreciate your favorable consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Dr. Gary Davis
Executive Director