The Illinois Budget

According to my discussions with legislators who have been working on the budget, their work as budgeteers is done for now. They have met numerous times and have crafted a plan which has been forwarded to leadership for review. This plan includes raising $5.4 billion in new revenues and reducing spending by $2.7 billion. Leaders are considering their proposal. The budgeteers are prepared to step back into the discussions if needed. Governor Rauner continues to state publicly that he will refuse any budget deal that does not include part of his Turnaround Agenda reforms which we understand is also being negotiated.

Earlier this week, the Illinois Senate passed Senate Bill 2047 to provide desperately needed financial assistance to human services. Yesterday afternoon (Thursday, May 12), the House passed this important measure which is now headed to the Governor’s desk for his consideration and possible quick signature. Last week, a similar measure was passed and signed into law to help provide a “quick fix” to the state’s universities, especially Chicago State University, Eastern Illinois University and Western Illinois University.

Clearly, most of the current budget discussions revolve around the Fiscal Year 2016 budget. Hearings have been held on the FY 2017 budget. Session is scheduled to end on May 31, 2016. There is a possibility that this impasse could continue into Fiscal Year 2017. Stay tuned to see how this plays out.

In April Sarah Bealles, IL HPCO Chair, wrote a letter to Members of the Senate Special Committee on Oversight of Medicaid Managed Care, chaired by Senator Heather Steans. The objective of.....

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