

## Templates:

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The General Assembly recently approved a “50-percent budget” for fiscal year 2010 that cuts a long list of vital services and programs in Illinois. The effects of this proposed budget are devastating and will gravely impact our community and other communities throughout the state.

### **I may lose my job as a (my job title) because of these budget cuts. How will these budget cuts impact you and your family?**

**Human Services** – \$769 million cut – Over 100,000 people affected

- *Eliminate Lekotek services for over 5,000 children with disabilities and their families*
- *Anixter Center - \$5 million cut – eliminate 1,700 individuals receiving services and support and layoffs of over 100 employees*
- *Eliminate home services for 5,000 people with disabilities*
- *Eliminate addiction treatment and prevention for 45,000 people*
- *Close one out of every five Illinois Department of Human Services offices*

**Education** – \$1.5 billion cut – Over 14,300 teachers laid off

**Higher Education** – \$554 million cut – Over 400,000 students affected

- *Eliminate all state scholarships, including MAP grants, making college less affordable for 400,000 students.*

**Healthcare** – \$1.2 billion cut – Over 650,000 people lose healthcare

- *Eliminate healthcare for 300,000 children and 175,000 parents, and Rx assistance for 172,000 seniors*
- *Eliminate all healthcare subsidies for 78,000 retired teachers, university and state employees*

**Seniors** – \$368 million cut – Over 271,000 seniors affected

- *Community Care program cut in half- 26,000 seniors would not receive services to help remain in their homes*
- *Eliminate Elder Abuse and Neglect program- 11,000 cases would not be investigated*

**Veterans** – \$27 million cut – Over 150,000 veterans affected and 1,000 kicked out of veterans’ homes

- *Eliminate Traumatic Brain Injury & Post Traumatic Stress Disorder counseling and assistance program*

**Public Safety** – \$294 million cut – Nearly 1,000 State Troopers laid off and 6,000 inmates released early

- *Close four Department of Juvenile Justice facilities and release over 500 juveniles early*

**Economic Development** – \$549 million cut – Every mass transit district affected

- *Eliminate all state funding for public transit and AMTRAK*

**Agriculture and Natural Resources** – \$98 million cut – 60 parks and every museum closed

**Local Government** – \$1 billion cut

- *Eliminate state funding for local governments, reducing their ability to fund core services like law enforcement, fire service and garbage collection and offices like public defenders, county treasurers and state’s attorneys*

\*facts stated at Illinoisprogress.com

Please contact your legislators and ask for a fair budget that protects services for the children and families in our community. The contact information for the legislators in our district is below. Please help stop the "Doomsday Budget" from passing and call your legislators today. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely your neighbor,  
(Your name)

**State Representative(s):**  
**State Senator(s):**

**Phone Number(s):**  
**Phone Number(s):**

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### *Call Script to Legislators*

Hello Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am calling today as a concerned (citizen, parent, constituent, employee, service recipient, etc.) of Lekotek, a division of Anixter Center. The current proposed cut in 100% of Lekotek funding is not acceptable. I understand that unless a budget is passed that includes an income taxes increase, all Lekotek services will cease to exist.

While these cuts were intended to save the state money, in reality these actually transfer the high cost of taking care of children with special needs to be the sole burden of their families. Of these families, many are already facing poverty, homelessness, lack of medical care and support, all of which will increase. Lekotek has been providing these vital services for over thirty years, which faces complete eradication due to the failure to implement a 1.5% tax increase.

On behalf of the over 5,250 children with disabilities and their families served statewide by Lekotek Centers, I desperately urge you to do the right thing. Please keep the humanity in service and vote for a budget to increase taxes to avoid abandoning our families and people with disabilities. I am willing to pay more to ensure that children who have disabilities can receive the services they desperately need to play, grow and strengthen families for the future of Illinois.

Lekotek is the only program of its kind in the nation, and its elimination statewide will cause all 32 national sites to close as the majority are in Illinois. Please VOTE YES for the income tax increase so Lekotek can continue to support our families.

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### *Sample Email/Fax to Legislators*

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am calling today as a concerned (citizen, parent, constituent, employee, service recipient, etc.) of Lekotek, a division of Anixter Center. The current proposed cut in 100% of Lekotek funding is not acceptable. I understand that unless a budget is passed that includes an income taxes increase, all Lekotek services will cease to exist.

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Lekotek has been providing these vital services for over thirty years, which faces complete eradication due to a 1.5% tax increase.

On behalf of the over 5,250 children with disabilities and their families served statewide by Lekotek Centers, I desperately urge you to do the right thing. Please keep the humanity in service and vote for a budget to increase taxes to avoid abandoning our families and people with disabilities. I am willing to pay more to ensure that children who have disabilities can receive the services they desperately need to play, grow and strengthen families for the future of Illinois.

Lekotek is the only program of its kind in the nation, and its elimination statewide will cause all 32 national sites to crumble as the majority are in Illinois. Thousands of families statewide who receive this important service will be denied. Please VOTE YES for the income tax increase so Lekotek can continue to support our families.