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Expiring tax rates threaten vitality of Illinois Latino families
Latino Policy Forum statement on Governor Pat Quinn's Budget Address

Chicago—March 27, 2014— With the vitality of families at stake, the Latino Policy Forum emphasized tax reform as necessary to resolving the state's fiscal crisis, in response to Governor Pat Quinn's budget address Tuesday.

Having grown by 33 percent in the last decade, Latinos are a young and fast growing population in Illinois. Yet the state's budget has continually fallen short in funding programs and services at a rate needed to keep pace with a burgeoning community. Sacrificing education, public safety, health care and other human services is unacceptable when alternative answers exist.

Aligned with the Governor's recommendations, the Forum asserts families; schools and businesses deserve a stable fiscal environment. Maintaining the state's current five percent income tax rate is a step in the right direction towards this stability. If the General Assembly allows the state income tax rate to diminish January 1, Illinois will stand to lose an additional \$2.3 billion dollars from the state's operating budget.

While there are many worthy initiatives in the proposed budget, the Forum commends the Governor for prioritizing resources in areas that are priorities for the Forum:

- Birth to five early care and education
- Bilingual education
- Homelessness prevention services
- Immigrant integration services

Alongside community partners, the Latino Policy Forum will continue urging officials to make difficult but prudent budget decisions this spring. Illinois can't succeed until every family succeeds.

About the Latino Policy Forum

The Latino Policy Forum is the only organization in the Chicago area that facilitates the involvement of Latinos at all levels of public decision-making. The Forum conducts analysis to inform, influence and lead. Its goals are to improve education outcomes, advocate for affordable housing, promote just immigration policies, and engage diverse sectors of the community, with an understanding that advancing Latinos advances a shared future. For more information, visit www.latinopolicyforum.org.

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