



STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

Letter-to-the-Editor
by Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn
(301 words)

“CHECKOFF THE BOX” FOR 13 GREAT CAUSES THIS INCOME TAX SEASON

Dear Editor,

As we enter the homestretch of the 2006 income tax season, millions of Illinois taxpayers – including me – will tackle their income tax returns. While taxpayers usually have little say in where their tax dollars go, we *can* make the call on how our money is spent with the voluntary checkoff.

Twenty-three years ago, voluntary checkoffs appeared for the first time on Illinois tax forms, with three causes benefiting. This year we have 13 great causes to support.

Preventing child abuse. Breast cancer research. Assisting schools, universities, and park districts in purchasing automated external defibrillators (AEDs). Deducted from your refund or added to the amount due, the checkoff is an easy and painless way to lend a hand.

Curing Lou Gehrig’s Disease. Assisting the homeless. Alzheimer’s research. Each cause is special. Someday one of us could benefit from any one of these causes, but we all benefit now as a community.

Helping Multiple Sclerosis victims. Preserving Illinois wildlife. Aiding families of National Guard members and reservists called to active duty. To remain on next year’s tax form, a checkoff must generate at least \$100,000 this year. Without widespread support, these great causes could be removed from next year’s form.

Helping Illinois pets. Curing Diabetes. Providing energy assistance to the poor in the winter. Supporting Illinois veterans. The people of the Land of Lincoln are generous and caring. Last year, the checkoffs raised more than \$1.8 million. I plan to donate to all 13 and if you do the same, we’ll make a difference in the lives of those who benefit from these funds.

For information, visit www.StandingUpForIllinois.org and click on “Great Causes”. Remember, when you get to “Line 28” on your Illinois Income Tax Form give a buck to each of the 13 great causes. Your help will go a long way.

Sincerely,

Pat Quinn
Illinois Lieutenant Governor