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ILLINOIS IS A LOW-SPENDING STATE

Chicago, IL (January 23, 2014) - The Center for Tax and Budget Accountability (CTBA) released an Issue Brief, "How Does Illinois Spending on Public Services Compare to Other States?" today. The Issue Brief delineates how under objective evaluation, Illinois ranks near the bottom in spending on core services like education, healthcare, human services, and public safety. Over the last 10 years, overall spending on services in Illinois has declined in real terms after adjusting for inflation.

CTBA Budget Director Amanda Kass said, "Given Illinois' low rank in state spending on core services, further reducing investments is not an appropriate way to deal with the state's deficits."

As the report reveals, Illinois ranks as one of the lowest spending states in the nation whether considered on a per capita basis, as a share of state Gross Domestic Product, or the number of state employees per 1,000 residents. In fact, Illinois is ranked 49th nationally in the number of state employees per 1,000 residents, and last in the Midwest region.

Further, despite having the largest population and the second highest GDP per capita in the Midwest, Illinois ranks second lowest among Midwest states in General Fund spending on services.

The findings in "How Does Illinois Spending on Public Services Compare to Other States?" make it clear that Illinois is not a high spending state on core public services. Despite having the fifth largest population, fifth highest GDP, and 12th highest GDP per capita nationally, Illinois ranks either in the bottom half or bottom third in General Fund spending on core services, depending on the metric used. CTBA's analysis indicates that Illinois fails to invest at levels that can be anticipated to satisfy demographically driven demand.

The full findings of the Issue Brief are available [here](#).

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