



January 27, 2009

The Honorable Pat Quinn  
Lieutenant Governor, State of Illinois  
676 N. LaSalle St., Suite 340  
Chicago, IL 60654

Dear Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn,

We at the Chicago Rehab Network are grateful for your long-term service to the people of Illinois and your hard work during this current crisis in Illinois politics. Your past efforts for tax reform and consumer protection and your current commitments to recuperate the budget deficit give hope that there are individuals in the Illinois House working for the citizens of Chicago. We commend your strong voice of leadership particularly regarding issues of affordable housing and community development, and we look forward to the support that these fields will continue to receive during your time in office.

Since its inception 30 years ago, the Chicago Rehab Network as a citywide coalition of neighborhood and community-based development associations has sought to preserve the development of safe and affordable housing in the city of Chicago. Like health care and education, housing is critical for the future of Chicago citizens, and preserving the affordability of Chicago neighborhoods is central to the city's growth. Recognizing this in 1989, the Illinois Legislature created the Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund to help provide affordable, decent, and safe housing for low and very low-income households. The Trust Fund was to receive allocations from the Real Estate Transfer tax, getting half of the total transfer tax revenue, an amount of approximately \$20-\$22 million annually. At the beginning of its inception the Trust Fund proved to be an important source of funding for affordable housing initiatives in Chicago. The allocation led to the acquisition and rehabilitation of existing housing, new construction of single family and multifamily, and adaptive reuse of non-residential buildings. It also met the unique housing needs of the mentally ill, physically disabled, elderly, and single-parent families.

The Chicago Rehab Network was involved in the inception of the Trust Fund and is keenly aware of both the spirit and intent of the legislation that created it. While every administration prior to that of Governor Blagojevich respected the Trust Fund's primary intent to finance development as stated in Section 5(a) of the (310 ILCS 65/) Illinois Affordable Housing Act, under the direction of Governor Blagojevich, nearly \$22 million Trust Fund dollars were redistributed from their intended use to other activities. Over the past seven years funds intended for housing have been redistributed in an attempt to balance the state budget. While the Rehab Network fully supports programming to fund human support services, we do not believe those services can or should be financed through the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Safe, decent affordable housing is the foundation for educational success, employment growth, community stability, and regional competitiveness. It must be a defining value and priority. We urge you to reinstate and safeguard the intended purpose of the Real Estate Transfer Tax by using half of the revenue for the Illinois Housing Trust Fund. In this way we can preserve and restore affordable housing in Chicago and throughout the State.

On behalf of the Board of the Chicago Rehab Network,

Kevin F. Jackson  
Executive Director  
Chicago Rehab Network

Cc: Arthur Turner, 9<sup>th</sup> District Deputy Majority Leader  
Michael Madigan, 22<sup>nd</sup> District Speaker of the House  
Tom Cross, 84<sup>th</sup> District Minority Leader of House  
Senator John Cullerton, 6th District Majority Caucus Whip  
Senator Christine Radogno, 41<sup>st</sup> District Minority Leader  
Deshana Forney, IHDA Executive Director