

January 7, 2022

Honorable J.B. Pritzker, Governor

Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch, Speaker, Illinois House of Representatives

Honorable Don Harmon, President, Illinois Senate

Honorable Jim Durkin, Minority Leader, Illinois House of Representatives

Honorable Dan McConchie, Minority Leader, Illinois Senate

Members of the Illinois General Assembly

Dear Illinois Leaders:

Protecting public safety calls for many different tools. Decades of law enforcement experience have clearly taught us that handcuffs, squad cars, and jail cells only go so far. In efforts to effectively curb crime and violence, a well-stocked toolbox requires a number of other well-designed tools, too — prevention measures that are backed by solid research. **With that in mind, we — the undersigned Illinois police chiefs, sheriffs, and prosecutors — recommend a number of priorities for inclusion in the state’s FY2023 budget.** These measures are shown by extensive studies to help ensure children start out on a path to success in school and beyond, and remain on track — better-equipped to avoid costly and frustrating involvement in criminal troubles.

We are among the 320 Illinois members of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization of over 5,000 law enforcement leaders nationwide. Our work has convinced us: We need to not only respond to crime once it occurs, but to take every step possible to avert crime from happening in the first place. This is more important now than ever, considering the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the many challenges facing children, families and communities.

Illinois’ fiscal challenges are daunting, and we appreciate that federal COVID-relief resources have been helpful to our state in weathering the pressures of the pandemic. More such state-and-federal collaboration will be necessary in strengthening priorities that are essential to the well-being of children and families — priorities that, over time, provide a powerful return on our public investments, including reduced criminal-justice costs. To that end, we strongly recommend:

Early childhood priorities — We join a range of partners in proposing an FY23 funding increase of at least 10 percent in a variety of critical programs, representing a “down payment” toward realization of the long-term recommendations of Illinois’ bipartisan Early Childhood Funding Commission. Among other things, commissioners noted that early care and education services are funded at only 14 percent of actual needs in Illinois. Similarly, we support the crucial, birth-to-3 goals of the Illinois PN3 Initiative (now called Raising Illinois). Underscoring the need for such improvements: Only about three in 10 kindergarteners are considered fully prepared for school success, statewide.

- **Early Childhood Block Grant** in the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) budget: Echoing ISBE’s own request, we seek a \$54.4 million increase in this grant, supporting preK and birth-to-3 services for tens of thousands of young children, statewide. Improving programs’ quality and equity — such as through better compensation for chronically underpaid teachers and staff — is a major goal.

- **Home-visiting programs** in the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) budget: We request a \$1.7 million combined increase in funding for the Healthy Families Illinois and Parents Too Soon programs. These birth-to-3 services provide “coaching” assistance for new and expectant parents seeking help in supporting their children’s optimum development. Such priorities have been shown to help curb abuse and neglect, as well as reduce other Adverse Childhood Experiences that can lead to such negative outcomes as opioid use. Separately, we also seek the commitment of some anticipated funding — from the settlement of lawsuits against opioid manufacturers and distributors — to support home-visiting programs.
- **Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)** in IDHS: We seek a \$41.1 million increase in state general revenue funds support for these services. CCAP provides child care help for the working parents of approximately 100,000 children from birth to age 12, statewide. The COVID pandemic has underscored this program’s vital significance for first responders, among others.
- **Early Intervention (EI)** in IDHS: We ask for a \$10.9 million increase in these services that encompass physical, speech, occupational, and other vital therapies for infants and toddlers experiencing developmental disabilities or delays. These programs boost such children’s chances of thriving in life.

Priorities for school-aged children and youth

- **Teen REACH program** in IDHS: With a number of allies, we seek an increase of at least \$5.1 million. This would restore these crucial, afterschool services closer to their maximum funding level — before years of cuts and neglect — to extend their help to more youth in need of healthy and productive alternative to the dangers of the streets during “prime time for juvenile crime.”
- **Afterschool services** within ISBE: We ask that you maintain the \$20 million dedicated to these afterschool services, and ensure they’re reaching and helping the teens and youth who most need their help — particularly in low-performing school districts.
- **Redeploy Illinois–Juvenile** in IDHS: We request that you at least maintain the nearly \$6.4 million dedicated to these services, with an aim of growing them over time. Redeploy cuts recidivism and saves money by providing support and accountability for young offenders in their home communities, instead of sending them to a DJJ prison facility. This effective initiative is still trying to bounce back from the recent state budget impasse, when many contracting counties withdrew from it because of unpaid bills.

These priorities are central to our hopes of truly making communities safer and more stable, taking us beyond simply arrests and prosecutions to include appropriate focus on the substantial role of prevention efforts. We look forward to discussing these issues with you as you undertake FY23 state budget decisions, and please don’t hesitate to contact Sean Noble, Illinois state director of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids at snoble@fightcrime.org or 312-288-8229, if we can be a resource to you. Thank you for your support of wise investments in children and families, public safety and crime prevention.

Sincerely, the undersigned Illinois law enforcement leaders.

Hon. Robert Berlin
DuPage County State's Attorney

Chief James Black
Crystal Lake Police Department

Chief Steven Casstevens
Buffalo Grove Police Department

Hon. Thomas Dart
Cook County Sheriff

Chief Mitchell Davis
Hazel Crest Police Department

Hon. Mark Doran
Ford County Sheriff

Chief Fred Hayes
Elwood Police Department

Hon. Bruce Kettelkamp
Christian County Sheriff

Hon. Jim Rowe
Kankakee County State's Attorney

Hon. John Simonton
Lee County Sheriff

Hon. Jeff Standard
Fulton County Sheriff

Hon. Richard Watson
St. Clair County Sheriff

Hon. Eric Weis
Kendall County State's Attorney

Hon. Randy Yedinak
Livingston County State's Attorney

Hon. Brandon Zanotti
Williamson County State's Attorney

Hon. Russell Adams
Lawrence County Sheriff

Hon. Rick Amato
DeKalb County State's Attorney

Chief Phillip Arnold
Wilmington Police Department

Hon. Brian Asbell
Peoria County Sheriff

Hon. Dwight Baird
Kendall County Sheriff

Chief Brian Baker
Skokie Police Department

Chief Steve Balinski
Kildeer Police Department

Hon. Steven Bareis
Perry County Sheriff

Chief Jim Bianchi
Sandwich Police Department

Public Safety Director
Matthew Buckley
Riverside Police Department

Chief Jeffrey Burgner
Oswego Police Department

Hon. Jack Campbell
Sangamon County Sheriff

Chief George Carpenter
East Dundee Police Department

Chief John Carter
Monticello Police Department

Hon. Joe Cervantez
Jackson County State's Attorney

Chief Michael Cimaglia
Berwyn Police Department

Chief Ed Clark
Crest Hill Police Department

Chief Tim Contois
LaGrange Park Police Department

Chief Robert Copley
Quincy Police Department

Chief Brian Cunningham
Woodridge Police Department

Chief David Daigle
Palatine Police Department

Chief Bruce Dayno
Riverwoods Police Department

Chief David DeMik
Riverdale Police Department

Chief John Dossey
Pekin Police Department

Hon. Douglas Dyhrkopp
Gallatin County State's Attorney

Chief Robert Dykstra
Rockdale Police Department

Chief Stephen Evans
Collinsville Police Department

Hon. Gary Farha
Adams County State's Attorney

Chief George Filenko
Round Lake Park
Police Department

Chief Patrick Finlon
Cary Police Department

Chief David Fitts
Marion Police Department

Chief Vernon Foli
Chatham Police Department

Chief Joseph Ford
Countryside Police Department

Hon. Paul Gann
Mason County Sheriff

Hon. Ben Goetten
Jersey County State's Attorney

Hon. James Gomric
St Clair County State's Attorney

Chief John Goode
Greenfield Police Department

Chief Anthony Gorski
West Dundee Police Department

Hon. Karl Groesch
Brown County Sheriff

Chief Ken Gross
Forest Park Police Department

Hon. J. Hanley
Winnebago County State's Attorney

Hon. Pat Hartshorn
Vermilion County Sheriff

Hon. Bradley Hauge
Logan County State's Attorney

Hon. Jason Helland
Grundy County State's Attorney

Chief Steve Herron
Roselle Police Department

Hon. Dustin Heuerman
Champaign County Sheriff

Hon. Michael Hill
Brown County State's Attorney

Hon. Justin Hood
Hamilton County State's Attorney

Chief Steven Husak
Lake Zurich Police Department

Hon. John Idleburg
Lake County Sheriff

Chief James Jensen
Yorkville Police Department

Chief Steve Johnson
Swansea Police Department

Chief Michael Jones
Matteson Police Department

Chief Jerel Jones
Macomb Police Department

Hon. Shawn Kahl
Macoupin County Sheriff

Chief Frank Kaminski
Park Ridge Police Department

Hon. Jeremy Karlin
Knox County State's Attorney

Hon. Randy Kern
Pulaski County Sheriff

Hon. Bryan Kibler
Effingham County State's Attorney

Hon. Andrew Killian
Ford County State's Attorney

Chief Laura King
McHenry County
Counservaion District

Chief Aaron Klima
Shorewood Police Department

Chief John Konopek
Plainfield Police Department

Chief James Kruger (*retired*)
Oak Brook Police Department

Hon. Jacqueline Lacy
Vermilion County State's Attorney

Hon. Jeff Lower
Tazewell County Sheriff

Chief Joseph Lukaszek
Hillside Police Department

Chief William Lustig
Northfield Police Department

Chief John Madden
Burr Ridge Police Department

Chief Christopher Mannino
Park Forest Police Department

Hon. Todd Martin
LaSalle County State's Attorney

**Director of Public Safety
Harold Masse**
Metropolis Department of
Public Safety

Chief Marc Maton
Lemont Police Department

Chief Michael McCoy
Washington Police Department

Chief Adam Mefford
Jacksonville Police Department

Chief Brian Melton
Morrison Police Department

Hon. James Mendrick
DuPage County Sheriff

Chief Scott Mettille
Chillicothe Police Department

Chief Justin Meyer
Minooka Police Department

Chief Thomas Mills
Broadview Police Department

Chief Joseph Montemurro
El Paso Police Department

Hon. J. Derek Morgan
Wabash County Sheriff

Hon. Jamie Mosser
Kane County State's Attorney

Hon. Andy Myers
Clay County Sheriff

Chief Laimutus Nargelenas
Springfield Park District

Chief Jim O'Shea
River Forest Police Department

Hon. Devron Ohrn
Cass County Sheriff

Chief Derek Peddycord
Glenwood Police Department

Chief Phillip Perlini
Grayslake Police Department

Hon. Nick Petitgout
McDonough County Sheriff

Director of Police Sam Pitassi
Melrose Park Police Department

Chief Robert Pyszka
Peru Police Department

Chief Jason Reid
Oak Forest Police Department

Chief LaDon Reynolds
Oak Park Police Department

Hon. Julia Rietz
Champaign County State's Attorney

Hon. Eric Rinehart
Lake County State's Attorney

Chief Jim Ritz
Willow Springs Police Department

Hon. Rick Robbins
Montgomery County Sheriff

Chief Pat Rollins
Sugar Grove Police Department

Chief Dan Ryan
Leland Grove Police Department

Hon. Jon Sandage
McLean County Sheriff

Chief Thomas Sanders *(retired)*
Spring Grove Police Department

Hon. Thomas Siegel
Warren County State's Attorney

Chief Nicholas Sikora
Elburn Police Department

Chief Jamal Simington
Bloomington Police Department

Chief Michael Simo
Morton Grove Police Department

Hon. Chris Sims
Moultrie County Sheriff

Hon. Tricia Smith
Boone County State Attorney

Sean Smoot
Policeman's Benevolent &
Protective Association of Illinois

Hon. David Snyders
Stephenson County Sheriff

Hon. Wayne Strawn
Marshall County Sheriff

Chief Dustin Sutton
Peoria Heights Police Department

Chief Daryl Syre
Streamwood Police Department

Chief John Tannahill
Lake County Forest Preserve
District Police Department

Chief Gregory Thomas
Darien Police Department

Hon. Kevin Turner
Jo Daviess County Sheriff

Hon. Dora Villarreal-Nieman
Rock Island County State's Attorney

Chief Wayne Wallis
Waukegan Police Department

Chief Dave Weigand
Crestwood Police Department

Chief Thomas Weitzel *(retired)*
Riverside Police Department

Chief David Wermes
Wauconda Police Department

Chief Terry White
Markham Police Department

Chief Ron Wilke
Lisle Police Department

Chief Kenny Winslow
Springfield Police Department

Chief Jim Winters
Sycamore Police Department

Executive Director Ed Wojcicki
Illinois Association of
Chiefs of Police

Hon. Dan Wright
Sangamon County State's Attorney

Chief John Slizis
Deerfield Police Department