



June 2016

An Open Letter to Our Supporters

Dear Friends,

On July 1, Illinois will enter its *second consecutive year* without a state budget – an unprecedented crisis never before seen in this state.

The Illinois Innocence Project resides at the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS), one of three universities of the University of Illinois system. When the Illinois General Assembly adjourned earlier this month, U of IL President Timothy Killeen expressed serious concern for students, faculty, staff and the university if we are forced to endure another prolonged period without adequate state funding.

“To date, we have weathered the shortfall responsibly through significant cost-saving initiatives, structural reforms and prudent financial management,” Dr. Killeen wrote in a June 1 email to the University community and supporters. “But we cannot withstand a continued loss of state funding without considerable damage to our core missions – teaching, research, public service and economic development.”

Thanks to your support, IIP remains strong and our services are in demand. Everyday we receive pleas for help; we have 500 already screened cases awaiting further review. ***But, in such times of precarious funding, we are especially concerned about sustaining the Project.*** Please support our work on behalf of the innocent by **making a contribution here.**

We stand by the University of Illinois system. Please stand with us.

Sincerely,

John J. Hanlon

Larry Golden

Executive/Legal Director

Founding Director

P.S. If you care about the public service of programs like the Illinois Innocence Project, please join our call to legislators to approve a state budget that will fund state universities. Voice your support for higher education, and link to Gov. Bruce Rauner and state legislators at Illinois Connection, founded by the U of IL Alumni Association. (If you work for the state or the University, it is best practice to use your personal phone or email, and to contact elected officials outside working hours or during scheduled breaks.)