



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE SENATOR
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SECOND WORCESTER DISTRICT
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**SENATOR MICHAEL O. MOORE ANNOUNCES 3 DAY FURLOUGH
TO HELP WITH BUDGET CRISIS**

Boston – In an effort to help solve the State’s spending gap, Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) today announced his intention to take three unpaid furlough days before July 1, 2009 - the close of the current fiscal year.

The Commonwealth is currently facing a \$156 million budget gap for 2009, and lawmakers anticipate that gap may widen by an additional \$400 million by the end of this fiscal year.

“Massachusetts is facing an unprecedented spending gap and legislators are being forced to make extremely difficult decisions regarding what priority they place on many of our state’s most important programs and services,” said Moore. “Due to revenue shortfalls, everyone is being asked to make sacrifices, which include furloughs, reduced spending and the elimination of positions. In addition to refusing a 5.5% salary increase back in January, I will also work a few days unpaid in an attempt to do my small part.”

This legislative session, the Massachusetts State Senate has addressed numerous discrepancies in the state system as one way to help solve the Commonwealth’s fiscal problems. The Senate passed a comprehensive transportation reform plan that advocates for reform and restructure. This plan restructures the Commonwealth’s bankrupt transportation system under a single, unifying agency to consolidate resources, simplify operations and reduce costs, with potential savings up to \$6.5 billion over 20 years. Additionally, they passed a bill that will tie off loopholes in the current pension laws to end abuses and save taxpayers money.

“As we debate the budget in the coming weeks, the legislature will not only be forced to reform but will also continue to look at numerous proposals to determine the best and most effective ways to provide opportunities for cost saving and revenue generation,” stated Moore.

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