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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE FRED CRESPO

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## Crespo Sponsors Resolution to Set Spending Limits for Union Contracts

**HOFFMAN ESTATES** – As the state continues its efforts to rein in spending, State Representative Fred Crespo (D-Hoffman Estates) is sponsoring a resolution filed last week that will limit how much the state can appropriate for wage and benefit increases for state union employees.

“Our state is working through a tough fiscal situation, and this resolution acknowledges that and allows us to keep spending under control by setting appropriation limits for union salaries, just as we set appropriation limits on the state budget this year,” Crespo said. “By setting parameters for spending we can continue our work to balance the budget.”

House Joint Resolution 45 states that the General Assembly will appropriate a certain percentage for wage increases associated with collectively bargained contracts. The measure states that state employee headcount should not be a topic of collective bargaining. In years past, the governor has made a deal with union officials and sent the bill to the Legislature for approval. This resolution would give the House and Senate more of a role in the negotiations and give the governor a set spending limit before heading into contract talks.

“Prior contract negotiations have made it difficult to keep the budget in check and we must all work together to ensure the fiscal health of our state,” Crespo said. “We have too many unpaid bills and this is another step we can take towards fiscal responsibility in state government.”

For more information, please contact Rep. Crespo’s constituent service office at (630) 372-3340.

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