



A BALANCED APPROACH TO A BALANCED BUDGET

TEXASForward™

STATEMENT

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Statement From Texas Forward on the Governor's State of State Address

(AUSTIN, Texas) —Texas Forward, a broad coalition of groups from across Texas urging a balanced approach to the state's revenue crisis, released the following statement regarding the governor's State of the State address.

"The Governor appears to be in denial about the severity of our fiscal crisis—a revenue shortfall even bigger than California's as a percentage of the budget. There is no issue facing Texas that is a greater emergency than the imminent danger that Texas grandparents will be turned out of their nursing home beds, that higher education will be out of reach for millions of college-ready Texans, and that the 2011-12 school year will have fewer schools, fewer teachers, and more children jammed into crowded classrooms across the state.

"The members of the Texas Forward coalition call on the Governor and Legislature to take a responsible, balanced approach to balancing our 2012-13 budget so Texas can move forward instead of taking a giant step back. Such an approach should include:

1. Use all of the Rainy Day Fund, estimated to have \$9.4 billion available for spending in the 2012-13 budget. The constitutional purpose of the fund is to maintain vital state services during economic downturns.
2. Maximize use of all available federal funding.
3. Create new sources of revenue that are equitable and can grow along with the growth in need for public services, for example, eliminating unwarranted tax exemptions."