



Shaping Policy...
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Missouri Budget Project Statement on Proposed Special Legislative Session

Below is a statement regarding the proposed special session of the Missouri Legislature in late June, from Missouri Budget Project Executive Director Amy Blouin:

“Two proposals up for consideration during a special legislative session of the Missouri General Assembly would expand spending on tax incentives for Ford Motor Company by \$10 million per year and ‘pay for’ this increase through significant cuts to pension benefits for state employees. This is particularly concerning as Ford Motor Company recently announced first quarter 2010 profits of \$2.1 billion, while Missouri’s state employees remain the lowest paid in the nation and our state continues to face massive cuts to critical state programs.

At the same time that this increased spending for one company would be considered, there is also the possibility of the Governor making cuts to the FY 2011 budget of nearly \$350 million. This would be in addition to at least \$650 million already cut from the budget for FY 2011, which begins next month, by the state legislature and Governor.

The cuts that have been made to our state budget impact the core services that benefit all Missourians and provide the foundation on which a strong economy is built. It is irresponsible to consider expanding spending on tax credits without a broader look at balanced solutions to Missouri’s budget process.”

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The Mission of the Missouri Budget Project is: To advance public policies that improve economic opportunities for all Missourians – particularly low and middle-income families – by providing reliable and objective research, public education and advocacy. More information is available at www.mobudget.org.