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Oct. 30, 2008

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Government Must Focus Efforts on Jobs, Budget, Infrastructure

***Statement from Michael T. Carrigan, president of the Illinois AFL-CIO
concerning suggested impeachment hearings against Gov. Blagojevich.***

“For the past six months, politicians and as well as thousands of working men and women in this state have been focused on the upcoming election. Union members have been working phone banks, walking precincts and leafleting at work sites in support of our endorsed candidates. We have worked hard to educate our members on the cons of a Constitutional Convention and the importance of early voting.

“From now until November 4th, our efforts are concentrated on getting our members to the polls in record numbers. Naturally we are all immersed in the excitement and historic significance of the Obama campaign and the opportunity to return the focus of federal government to working-class people.

“But after the election, the leaders of this state must return to Springfield and turn their full attention to bringing stability and economic growth to Illinois. Political leaders need to focus on job creation, a capital program, education funding, public pension solvency, and a revenue source to implement these critical programs.

“We can not waste time on unnecessary, unfounded impeachment proceedings. This state is in dire need of a strategic economic plan of action. Citizens of this state are hurting financially. Jobs are disappearing and incomes are drying up. The focus of this next General Assembly must be to enact public programs that will get our economy back on track.

“The Illinois AFL-CIO strongly discourages any attempt to initiate impeachment proceedings. The Illinois General Assembly’s priorities must be about addressing the critical economic problems of our state.”