

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 18, 2004**

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**State Leaders and Experts to Discuss State Budget
Solutions and Impact on Connecticut Residents**

***Options for resolving the budget deficit
while assuring critical services to be reviewed***

What:	The 3 rd Annual State Budget Forum is an informational forum that will present options from a variety of perspectives on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to resolve the state’s structural budget deficit while maintaining critical services, • the impact of current and proposed federal and state budget changes on Connecticut residents, and • the pros and cons of various spending and revenue proposals. This “budget boot camp” will also examine how recent and proposed budget changes will affect education, health care, cities and towns, and the nonprofit sector in Connecticut.
Who:	Featured speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marc Ryan, Secretary of Office of Policy and Management (OPM) • Kevin B. Sullivan, Senate President Pro Tempore • Nick Johnson, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Washington DC • Chuck Collins, co-author with Bill Gates, Sr. of <i>Wealth and Commonwealth: Why America Should Tax Accumulated Fortunes</i> • A panel of Connecticut respondents
When:	Tuesday, February 24, 2004, 1:00 to 5:00 pm
Where:	Legislative Office Building, Room 1B, Hartford
For more information:	Space is limited. For more information or to reserve a seat, contact Anna Blanding at anna@ctkidslink.org or (203) 498-4240. If possible, we would appreciate it if reporters can confirm their attendance.

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Tentative Agenda

- 1:15 – 1:45 **Marc Ryan, Secretary of the State of Connecticut’s Office of Policy and Management** will provide background on Governor Rowland’s budget proposal.
- 1:45 – 2:15 **Kevin Sullivan, Senate President Pro Tempore**, will present the Democratic leadership’s perspective on the state budget and the revenue and spending options Democrats are considering.
- 2:15 – 2:45 **A panel of advocates** will comment on the impact of the Governor’s budget proposal on health care, education, cities and towns, and the nonprofit sector.
- 2:45 – 3:15 **Question & Answer Session**
- 3:30 – 4:00 **Nick Johnson, Director of the State Fiscal Project at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities**, will speak on President Bush’s proposed federal budget, the impact of the increasing federal deficit, and the challenges that federal fiscal pressures will pose for Connecticut.
- 4:00 – 4:30 **Chuck Collins, co-founder of Responsible Wealth and co-author with Bill Gates, Sr. of *Wealth and Our Commonwealth: Why America Should Tax Accumulated Earnings***, will speak on the role of estate taxes and other forms of progressive taxation in ensuring adequate revenues for states.
- 4:30 – 5:00 **Question & Answer Session**

The event is sponsored by Connecticut Voices for Children, a research-based policy and advocacy organization for children and families, in partnership with Responsible Wealth, a national network of businesspeople, investors and affluent Americans who are concerned about deepening economic inequality and are working for widespread prosperity, and United for a Fair Economy, a national, independent non-profit that raises awareness of the damaging consequences of growing economic inequality.

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