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May 20, 2009

Ms. Tracie Drew, Bureau Chief
Bureau of Administrative Rules and Procedures
Department of Human Services
100 South Grand Avenue East
Harris Building, 3rd Floor
Springfield, IL 62762

**Re: Proposed Amendments to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families,
General Assistance and Food Stamp programs (89 Ill. Adm. Code 112, 114,
and 121), Illinois Register 4/10/09**

Dear Ms. Drew:

I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed amendments to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), General Assistance (GA) and Food Stamp programs. The proposed changes simplify and align asset rules across programs and reduce administrative burdens on staff.

By eliminating the asset test in TANF and GA, families will be encouraged to build savings and assets that will assist them in maintaining self-sufficiency, especially when they experience an employment setback. Similarly, the proposed adoption of the TANF vehicle exemption rule in the Food Stamp program will assist families in obtaining and maintaining employment and self-sufficiency.

Woodstock Institute advances economic security and community prosperity on behalf of lower-wealth households and communities of color through research and policy work to support fair lending, wealth creation, and financial system regulatory reform.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

Sincerely yours,

Dory Rand
President
312.368.0310
drand@woodstockinst.org

DR/bab