TUA NEWS RELEASE

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IL Govt. Pension Fiasco Sparks Media Coverage

Chicago – Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner delivered his inaugural budget address before the General Assembly yesterday, focusing in part on the government pension debacle afflicting the state. Taxpayers United of America (TUA) has played a large role in publicizing this issue for nearly a decade, and yesterday's media coverage is helping spread the message like never before.

Although not mentioned by name, Rauner was citing TUA's research when he stated in his budget address, "As it stands right now, one out of every four dollars taken from taxpayers by the state goes into a system that is giving more than ELEVEN THOUSAND government retirees tax-free, six-figure pensions worth as much as, in one case, \$450,000 per year!"

Rauner was referring specifically to TUA's release April 30, 2014, "<u>Illinois' Top 200</u> <u>Government Pensions: The New Millionaire's Row</u>," listing the most lavish government pensions in Illinois as of April 1, 2014. TUA's response to Rauner's budget address yesterday can be found <u>here</u>.

Luckily, Gov. Rauner's reference was not ignored, and ABC 7 Chicago followed up with a story yesterday evening, "Some Illinois retirees getting millions from taxpayers," further investigating the top gold-plated government pensions in the state. A link with a PDF of our research can be found within their ABC 7 investigative report, as well as here.

TUA has forced the Illinois government pension fiasco into the spotlight and for good reason; the current government pension system is unsustainable. TUA's website has been flooded with new visitors and taxpayers looking to become members, joining TUA in the fight for fiscal sanity in Illinois and reclaiming our economic future.