

**Statement of Former Senators Michael Noland and James Clayborne
Regarding Cook County Circuit Court Decision on July 2, 2019
Case No 17-CH-7762**

“The purpose of the lawsuit we filed was to protect and vindicate the independence of each legislator of the General Assembly. Between 2009 and 2018, the General Assembly passed legislation each year eliminating COLA increases in legislator salaries and imposing furlough days on legislators to also reduce their salary midterm. Doing so was contrary to Article IV, Section 11 of the Illinois Constitution, which bars ‘changes in the salary’ of a legislator during their term of office.

We are pleased with the Circuit Court decision that agreed and concluded that these statutes imposing midterm salary cuts and furlough days were facially unconstitutional. Just as Illinois courts held that the Illinois Constitution prohibits using the salaries of judges and legislators as a political football by the Governor and Comptroller to advance a political agenda, members of the General Assembly cannot cut their own salaries on a mid-term basis to curry favor with voters. It is our hope that the Circuit Court decision will be followed and the impacted legislators will be paid what they are due.

As for the Comptroller’s personal attacks on Senator Noland, they are unwarranted and beneath the office she serves. The Comptroller should instead focus on her constitutional duty to follow the law and pay legislators their full salary as required by the Circuit Court’s Order and the Illinois Constitution.”