

November 12, 2008

Dear State of Kansas Employees:

Recently we've watched the national economy take a dramatic downturn and seen the financial markets record devastating losses, impacting local businesses, families and our state budget. As a result, we learned that the State of Kansas will be short \$211 million in the current fiscal year. The projection for 2010 is even more dire.

Without immediate action we will not be able to balance the state budget; and public schools, programs for the frail and elderly and safety net health services could be at risk. Therefore, to protect our children's education and the most vulnerable Kansans, we must work together to make strategic cuts which safe guard those critical efforts.

We knew it would only be a matter of time before the waves on Wall Street had a ripple effect on the economy here at home; that's why in June I asked agencies to begin implementing spending restrictions, impose hiring controls, eliminate non-essential spending, and enact a host of streamlining measures throughout state government. We increased the efforts this month, and we will continue to take the necessary steps to prepare for the challenges we face. I do not take these tough decisions lightly but realize as Governor it's my job to make them. I appreciate the input and guidance of our State agency heads, and will work closely with legislative leaders, the Board of Regents and State Board of Education, and the Judicial Branch as we navigate through this difficult budget time.

I have not and will not lose sight of the value of your service to Kansans, and the benefit of your work to your family. To show my appreciation for the hard work you do throughout the year, I am declaring Friday, December 26, 2008 a legal holiday for employees of the State of Kansas.

We have been in tough times before and, just like we did then, together, we will move forward. Through your commitment to public service, we will continue to make Kansas a better place live, work and raise a family.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the people of Kansas as we remember: *Ad Astra Per Aspera*. To the stars through difficulty.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Sebelius
Governor of the State of Kansas