

As of February 18 2026 the Illinois Governor and the Wisconsin Governor love their neighbor
Dueling State of the State addresses did not dim their votes in their own favor

Of promoting love in an era of hate from the top down.

Pritzker spoke in Springfield and Evers in Madison AKA Mad Town.

Pritzker reached back to the days of John Peter Altgeld, a German-born

American who was one Progressive leader and between countries un torn

served as governor of Illinois from 1893 to 1897. Altgeld oversaw passage of some

of America's strongest laws for workplace safety and child worker protection outside the home

invested heavily in education, and appointed women to positions in state government reached

despite the fact that women could not yet vote. Pritzker noted that in his speech

in January 1895, Altgeld talked about "the need to ensure that science would govern the practice

of medicine in Illinois; the condition of Illinois prisons; the high cost of insurance;

the funding of state universities; a needed revision of election laws; and the concentration of wealth

"To be perfectly candid," Pritzker said, "as Illinois is one of the states whose taxpayer base

sends more dollars to the federal government than we receive back in services,

I was hoping that Trump threats to gut programs that support working families were just

unrealistic hyperbole that fuels a presidential campaign but then is abandoned

when cooler heads prevail." But, he said, "there are no cooler heads headed"

Trump has cost Illinois 8 point 4 billion dollars, illegally confiscating money already been

promised and appropriated by the Congress to the people of Illinois." Pritzker was clear then

that this money is not handouts but "dollars that real Illinoisans paid in federal taxes and that

have been constitutionally approved by our elected Democrats and Republicans that

are representatives in Washington." Unlike the federal government, states must balance

their budgets every year. Trump's billions in illegally withheld funds inflict a cost in advance

on the state's residents, while Illinois has been "forced to spend enormous time and

taxpayer money going to court and fighting to get what is rightfully ours." And

"It is impossible to tally the hours, days, and weeks our state government has spent

chasing news that read like proclamations from the Lollipop Guild." of Presidential edicts,

executive orders, and letters. Pritzker noted that Trump is making life harder for everyday

Americans with tariffs that raise costs for working families and small businesses today

trade wars that are devastating farmers; cuts to healthcare, nutritional assistance,

and education; increased bureaucratic demands on states; and low job creation for instance.

There was good news financially because Pritzker is behaving responsibly

RAWSEP now cuts off the enumeration although positive. The message is unmistakably

To the point of view of RAWSEP Cut out the rot from the top! Vote for Democrats in the midterms

In the blue state of Illinois and blue Wisconsin freed of Republican redistricting in this term

Pritzker spoke eloquently about love over hate and stubborn hope for the future

"I love my country," Pritzker said. "I refuse to stop. The hope I have found in a very difficult year

is that love is the light that gets you through a long night.

"I Love Illinois. I Love America. I Refuse to Stop."