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Pritzker Spins His Wheels At Taxpayer Expense

Chicago – Evidence is beginning to mount that Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker is burning taxpayer dollars in an ineffectual fight against COVID-19.

[“While Pritzker’s promises to expand coronavirus testing](#) looks good for the cameras, Pritzker is ignoring reality,” said Matthew Schultz, Executive Director of Taxpayers United of America. “No matter how much Pritzker spends on testing, the capacity to analyze tests has barely increased. Illinoisans are waiting weeks before finding out if they are positive or not, and by that point the test is useless.”

[At the start of June, it was reported that Pritzker paid a premium of almost \\$500 million in taxpayer dollars on over 1 million coronavirus tests.](#) However, by then the state of Illinois was already lagging behind the testing rate. [As early as April 2nd Illinois was behind 29 other states in per capita testing.](#)

“Governor Pritzker is disrespecting the billions of taxpayer dollars allotted to him on the federal level,” continued Schultz. “\$500 million on useless tests, [\\$286 million on tracking coronavirus patients](#) well after the virus has run its course. It’s all a show to make it look like he is actually making a difference.”

“The Soviet style state lockdown Pritzker instituted, [which has shuttered 5100 Illinois business](#), was a move of desperation due to state resource mismanagement and Pritzker’s inability to act quickly. Remember, [it was Pritzker’s party that lashed out against government anti-coronavirus measures as far back as January.](#)”

[“Pritzker has blamed the federal government for his sluggishness to act by](#) stating he was expecting more support from DC. What Pritzker has to remember, is that if he had managed Illinois better, he would have more resources to fight a crisis. Instead, Pritzker has given government employees \$100 million in pay raises, and had so far refused to deal with the elephant in the room: the Illinois government pension crisis. Pritzker has chosen government employees and government retirees over the health of Illinois as a whole.”

“Even without common sense fiscal reform, Pritzker could be more pragmatic with the billion that has been entrusted to him by taxpayers. Instead of paying for useless testing, use resources to acquire additional masks and launch a campaign to wear masks. Convincing, but not forcing Illinoisans to use masks would significantly reduce the number of COVID cases, and would be a more efficient use of resources.”