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Fiscal Policy Institute Names Ron Deutsch as Interim Executive Director Dr. Fred Floss to remain as Senior Fellow at FPI

ALBANY, N.Y. – The Board of Directors of the Fiscal Policy Institute announced today that it has appointed Albany veteran Ron Deutsch as Interim Executive Director effective immediately.

After a year of dedicated service, Dr. Frederick G. Floss has decided to return to his position as professor of economics and finance at Buffalo State College but will continue to work with the organization as a Senior Fellow.

"Income inequality and tax fairness will be two of the most important issues facing New York when the 2015 Legislature convenes. For over two decades the Fiscal Policy Institute has been the most respected public voice on these issues and the Board is pleased to have Ron Deutsch lead us in a new era as we intensify our focus and advocacy for progressive policies that will serve all New Yorkers, especially those with lower and middle incomes," said Michael J. Burgess, Chairman of the FPI Board of Directors.

Deutsch has been a tireless advocate for working families for the past 22 years in Albany. He led the Statewide Emergency Network for Social and Economic Security (SENSES, a statewide anti-poverty advocacy organization) for 13 years and has been the Director of FPI's sister 501(c)(4) organization, New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness for the past 8 years. Deutsch will be taking the helm as FPI enters the 2015 legislative session and will use his decades of organizing and advocacy experience to complement FPIs outstanding analysis and research capabilities. FPI's budget work will focus on building broad coalitions around the renewal of the millionaires tax, ending the States austerity budgeting and reinvesting in our schools and cities, boosting the wages of working families, addressing deficiencies in our economic development system and promoting a progressive state and local tax structure that works for all of us.

"I am honored to have been chosen as FPI's Interim Executive Director and am very excited about the opportunity to work more closely with FPI's excellent and dedicated staff. I look forward to working with FPI's allies, elected officials and the public on the development and implementation of progressive public policies that improve the lives of low and middle-income New Yorkers," Deutsch said. "The Board and I are also pleased to announce that Dr. Floss has agreed to become a Senior Fellow with FPI. His leadership during our transition period is greatly appreciated and I am happy he will continue to work with me and FPI."

Deutsch is a graduate of the State University of New York at Albany. He also leads an all volunteer non-profit (<u>www.thegivingcircle.org</u>) that works to help improve the lives of families in the Capital District, nationally and internationally.

"Ron Deutsch will continue the tradition of solid analysis and common-sense policy proposals that have made FPI a trusted voice in New York," said Nicholas Johnson, Senior Vice President for State Fiscal Policy at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. "We look forward to continuing our strong relationship with FPI in the effort to bring broadly shared economic growth to New York State and the rest of the nation in difficult times."

The Fiscal Policy Institute (<u>www.fiscalpolicy.org</u>) is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit research and education organization committed to improving public policies and private practices to better the economic and social conditions of all New Yorkers.