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Educators, Advocates Call on Gov. Rauner to Sign Education Funding Reform Already on His Desk

Chicago – Stand for Children Illinois today joined with local educators and education reform advocates, urging Gov. Bruce Rauner to sign the education funding measure rather than using local schools and students as leverage in his political games.

“Governor Rauner’s own administration has said he supports 90% of what’s in this bill. This obstinacy is exactly why we’re not getting anything done in this state. Our elected leaders need to work together and compromise, especially when they support 90% of the bill. Despite the governor’s blame games, the only person holding up funding for our schools is Bruce Rauner,” said Dan Cox, Superintendent of Staunton Community Unit School District No. 6. “The bill brings more money to our schools, gives local parents a better ability to decide how their money is best spent, and it does so without picking winners and losers; no school district will ever lose a penny, and most will receive much more.”

“Unfortunately, despite having a state budget, there is still no funding mechanism for K-12 schools. I hope the Governor will be remembered as the education governor by supporting this landmark reform that will help kids across the state. Senate Bill 1 is a solution. It will bring more money to our schools where we can decide how it can best be used to provide our students with new opportunities. It’s time the Senate sends him the bill so he can do what’s right and sign the bill,” said Michael Lubelfeld, Superintendent of Schools, Deerfield Public Schools District 109.

While the governor refuses to detail his own plans for passing education funding reform, superintendents and advocates are calling on him to sign Senate Bill 1, which provides additional funding to almost every school in the state. The bill is a permanent guarantee of more funding for local schools, while changes hinted at by the governor and his allies would return to a system of picking winners and losers; after a four-year period, many schools throughout the state would lose funding under what the Governor and his allies have sought.

Senate Bill 1 is backed by administrators and educators from every part of the state, as well as education reform advocates.

“For nearly three years, Governor Rauner failed our state and played games with the state budget, and now it’s clear he wants to do the same with education funding,” said Mimi Rodman, Executive Director of Stand for Children Illinois. “His games are dismantling the legacy that he previously worked so hard to achieve and are putting schools at risk of being unable to open in August. His political games won’t fix the most unfair funding formula in the nation, they won’t create new opportunities for children, and they won’t provide property tax relief for homeowners. Senate Bill 1 will. Now it’s up to the governor to stop playing games and sign this reform bill.”

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Stand for Children is a non-partisan education advocacy organization focused on ensuring all students graduate from high school ready for college or career training.

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