MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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INVEST IN ARIZONA LAUNCHES REFERENDA CAMPAIGN

Parents, teachers, and advocates launch Invest in Arizona in response to Gov Ducey and Republican state legislators passing massive tax breaks for the wealthy and hundreds of millions in cuts to state revenues affecting education, infrastructure, and much more.

(PHOENIX)– On Saturday, parents, teachers, and advocacy organizations are kicking off their campaign to stop and refer recently passed bills to the ballot for voters to decide. The Prop 208 – Invest in Education campaign that accomplished a historic election win at the ballot box last November, is now leading the effort to defend state revenues by relaunching their efforts as Invest in Arizona.

Arizona legislators recently voted for several bills that will affect water, roads, public safety, health care, and city infrastructure as well as education. They also passed massive tax cuts and legislation to decrease the revenue generated by the voter-approved Prop 208 – Invest in Ed, eliminating hundreds of millions of dollars that were supposed to reach teachers and students.

Invest in Arizona is running three referenda campaigns that target specific bills that were passed during the legislative session this year. These bills are:

- 1828, a so-called “Flat Tax” which primarily benefits Arizona’s wealthiest individuals, giving them massive handouts and guts hundreds of millions from state revenues.
- SB 1783, a direct attack on Prop 208 – Invest in Ed and the 1.7 million Arizona voters who passed it. The bill siphons off over $300 million dollars that voters passed, taken away from teachers and students.
- 1827, another give-away for Arizona’s wealthiest friends of the Governor, ensuring that they never pay their fair share into the state’s general fund.

The event this Saturday, July 17th will be held at the Arizona Education Association. The event will include drive-thru petition signing stations, canvassing, and a press conference starting at 9:30 AM. Hundreds of people are expected to attend and volunteer that day.

“These cuts undermine education, infrastructure, and the future of Arizona. The Governor and his cronies want you to think it’s over. It is not,” said Joe Thomas, President of the Arizona Education Association. “We’ve been continuously nickel and dimed by this legislature and this governor and they’ve done it again. It’s unconscionable.”
“47 Republican state legislators and the governor have overturned the will of 1.7 million Arizona voters. By passing these sneaky budget schemes, this small group of politicians are helping their rich friends avoid paying their fair share to public schools. Worst of all, they are trying to silence voters,” said Rebecca Gau, Executive Director of Stand for Children Arizona. "There is a moral imperative to honor the will of the people and stop these attacks on voters, just because a few politicos are angry that they lost an election," she added.

**WHAT:** Invest in Arizona Campaign Launch and Press Conference

**WHEN:** Saturday, July 17

- Event begins at 9:00 AM
- Press conference at 9:30 AM
- Event will be open until 1PM

**WHERE:** Arizona Education Association 345 E Palm Ln Phoenix, AZ 85004

**WHO:** Arizona parents, teachers, and education leaders will be available for interviews during the event.

*Photo and Interview Opps*

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**Invest in Arizona Coalition**

Stand for Children Arizona

Arizona Education Association

ARA

Children’s Action Alliance

Arizona Interfaith Network

Save Our Schools Arizona

Friends of Arizona School Boards Association
Speakers at Press Conference

- Joe Thomas, president of Arizona education Association.
- Marnee Burrus, third grade teacher at Emerson Elementary School in the Phoenix Elementary School District
- Steven Chapman, president, Friends of ASBA
- Georgina - statewide organizing director, stand for children Arizona
- Rev. Hunter Ruffin, a senior pastor at Church of the Epiphany in Tempe
- Student - need info