



**PRESS ADVISORY: Stand for Children To Hold Press Conference
Asking The Legislature to “Lift With Love” for Permanent AEL Fix**

(PHOENIX, AZ) – Stand for Children Arizona, a leading education advocacy group, is hosting a press conference on Tuesday, February 14th, at 11 AM at the Arizona State Capitol. The conference, dubbed "Lift with Love," will celebrate the recent passage of HCR 2001 and SCR 1009, mirror bills granting a one-year waiver for the Aggregate Expenditure Limit (AEL). However, the event will also bring attention to the urgent need for a permanent solution, so Arizona’s students and families don’t face this uncertainty year after year.

Before the press conference, Stand for Children Arizona created a statewide petition with over 1,700 signatures as of Monday morning, making it clear that Arizonan’s are tired of this outdated limit that makes it harder to fund Arizona’s public schools – even when the legislature and Governor have budgeted for it.

At the "Lift with Love" press conference an educator, a parent, and a student, will talk about the direct impact of the AEL on schools and families. They will ask for bipartisan support for a long-term solution for the AEL, rather than making it political theater every year.

Rebecca Gau, Stand for Children Arizona's Executive Director says, "This Valentine's Day, we are asking our lawmakers to put kids ahead of politics and refer a constitutional amendment to the ballot to address this once and for all. We need leaders who will use their head and their heart to do the right thing."

"All are welcome to this press conference, after which students will deliver Valentines along with the petitions for lawmakers. This 'Lift with Love' press conference promises to be an important event for the AEL issue, showcasing the passion and commitment of Arizonans to address serious flaws in our school finance system," shares Daniel Hernandez, former Arizona State legislator and Stand for Children Government Affairs Director.

Stand for Children Arizona is a nonprofit advocacy organization that focuses on empowering and educating parents, teachers, and community members to become active leaders and serve as a voice for children at the state and local level. Our mission is simple: to ensure that all children, regardless of their background, graduate from high school prepared for, and with access to, a college education. For more information, visit www.stand.org/arizona