



For More Info:
Scott McDonald
312.765.7804
smcdonald@stand.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 9, 2017

Superintendents, Advocates Call Out Consequences of Governor Rauner's SB1 Amendatory Veto

CHICAGO—Superintendents and education advocates today spoke out at a legislative hearing here to highlight the damage to Illinois schools that Governor Bruce Rauner's amendatory veto of Senate Bill 1 would bring. The bill vetoed by Rauner would have fixed our state's broken education funding system. Other officials joined in calling on legislators to support the Evidence-Based Model for Student Success Act (otherwise known as SB1) in veto override votes.

"Every child in Illinois deserves a high-quality education that gives them a fair shot at prosperity," said Dr. Michael Lubelfeld, Superintendent of Deerfield Public Schools District 109. "The amendatory veto doesn't fix the broken funding formula; it doubles down on a funding model that's neither adequate nor equitable. SB1 may not be a perfect bill but it takes the state to a new path that aims to close the opportunity gap that exists under the current funding system."

Speakers at today's hearing included:

- Dr. Michael Lubelfeld, Superintendent of Deerfield Public Schools District 109
- Ellen Correll, Superintendent of Schools of Community Consolidated School District 46
- Dr. Andy Henrikson, Superintendent of Mundelein Elementary School District 75
- Dr. Lonny Lemon, Superintendent of Oak Grove School District 68
- Dr. Jason Lind, Superintendent of Millburn School District 24

"SB1 is good for Grayslake and it's good for all districts across the state," said Correll. "The governor's veto would take funding away from districts like ours. The changes made by the governor will impact districts across the state – including CCSD 46 – and his changes will result in local students losing additional funding going forward. That is something we cannot afford and cannot support."

“All kids, regardless of their zip code, deserve access to a high-quality education that prepares them for life,” said Dr. Henrikson. “The amendatory veto language changes the trajectory of adequate and equitable funding for all children in Illinois. Mundelein schools are ready to open and educate our students, but without state funding, tough choices will need to be made in the near future.”

Senate Bill 1 represents the first time a school funding overhaul has passed both chambers of the legislature in 20 years. The Governor’s amendatory veto arrived as promised, even though his own administration has said the bill is 90% of what the governor wants in an education reform bill. The governor’s changes are also directly opposed to the findings made by a commission he created last year to study the issue. Under SB1, no district would lose a penny of state or local resources and new funds would be strategically invested toward the most underfunded schools. The enacted budget includes \$6.7 billion for evidence-based funding. However, without SB1 being enacted, the state has no evidence-based formula in place and, therefore, no authority to expend those funds.

“SB1 gives Illinois a clean break from the failed status quo,” said Dr. Lemon. It was designed by a non-partisan team looking to fix a broken funding system. “In my opinion, the last thing we should be doing now is pitting districts against each other by creating winners and losers. Unfortunately, the SB1 amendatory veto does not help fix the funding model. I’ve been on the losing side of the state funding problems. It is not fun and certainly not good for kids.”

Leaders agree on one critical point, which they echoed today: Illinois schools are depending on SB1.

“Our schools need certainty and stability regarding funding and opening their doors on time,” said Dr. Lind. “SB1 is a bill that provides us that certainty. The changes with the veto change the equation and the unknowns are unsettling. Millburn schools have enough funding to remain open until April, but after that we will either close or have to borrow funds from neighboring districts just to remain open. We truly hope that SB1 can be restored as the law of Illinois.”

“Senate Bill 1 increases funding for all schools in our state. We are disappointed the Governor vetoed the bill,” said Mimi Rodman, Executive Director of Stand for Children Illinois. “The Governor’s changes will reduce funding to many school districts and shove more education costs onto property tax payers. On top of that, the Governor made several bureaucratic changes to Senate Bill 1 that would take millions of dollars away from our kids’ classrooms.”

Michael Jacoby, Executive Director/CEO of Illinois Association of School Business Officials, said on behalf of the Fix the Formula Coalition, “The Governor’s amendatory veto of Senate Bill 1 actually frustrates the core principles of the legislation—that is, creating a funding system that provides every district the resources it needs to educate the children it serves. Under the amendatory veto, many school districts across the state will never reach the level of funding. Period.”

About SB1: The Evidence-Based Funding for Student Success Act (or SB1) that recently passed the General Assembly would fix our state's unfair and inequitable school funding system. SB1 would bring a more equitable system that ensures all children receive the education they deserve.

###