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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 29, 2017

Stand for Children Thanks Supporters of Bipartisan Compromise in Passage of Historic School Funding Reform

Springfield – Stand for Children Illinois today thanked the bipartisan coalition of members who passed an historic education funding reform bill that will overhaul the country’s worst school funding system and give every student the opportunity for a world-class education, regardless of where they live. The historic measure represents the first time in 20 years that the state has updated its education funding formula.

“Today’s passage of education funding reform represents a generational change for Illinois children,” said Mimi Rodman, Executive Director of Stand for Children Illinois. “The passage of this landmark bill was only made possible because lawmakers of both parties chose compromise over politics and worked cooperatively to ensure children throughout the state receive the education they deserve. Our current system has shortchanged students for far too long. But thanks to the dedicated work of advocates across the state and the tireless work of legislative leaders like Senate President John Cullerton, Senate Republican Leader Bill Brady, Speaker Michael Madigan, House Majority Leader Jim Durkin, Senator Andy Manar, and Representative Will Davis, that broken formula is being fixed. In its place is a formula backed by research that funds the high-quality education our students need to have a fair shot at prosperity. The significance of this reform cannot be overstated.”

Rodman thanked all legislators who supported the bill, SB1947, and urged the Governor to sign it without delay.

The funding included in SB1947 would help students throughout Illinois. The compromise solution showed that there is widespread agreement on one thing: the quality of a child’s education should not depend on their zip code. Education is the key to the American Dream, and with the help of advocates and legislative leaders, this historic day will ensure our schools remain open and that resources will flow to schools that need them the most.

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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.

Visit www.stand.org/illinois for more information.