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**Stand for Children IL PAC Endorses 25 Candidates from
Both Sides of the Aisle**

Candidates Share Commitment to Equitable Education for All Children

Chicago – Stand for Children, a non-profit education advocacy organization that fights for educational equity, today announced its endorsement of Illinois General Assembly candidates in the 2018 general election. Through its state political action committee, Stand helps elect candidates committed to fighting for an equitable public education system that gives all students a chance to succeed.

“Those who take the time to cast ballots this November will have significant power by the very act of voting,” said Mimi Rodman, PAC chairperson. “Their voices will be more influential because turnout tends to be lighter in mid-term elections. This presents a profound opportunity and responsibility. We urge these citizens to remember our state is only as strong as our children, and our children can only succeed if provided a quality education.

“We endorsed candidates who understand that educational equity means spending taxpayer dollars wisely and fairly. We look to them to stop the droves of high school graduates leaving for out-of-state colleges, which requires strong schools from day one. If there is one issue that should never be political, it is education. That’s why we looked for candidates with integrity and pragmatism who will reach across the aisle.”

Stand believes that the need is urgent for bold and courageous education champions who will fight for the best interest of all children. That is why Stand for Children IL PAC stands behind these candidates in the general election. To select the candidates the organization will support in the general election, Stand executed a rigorous endorsement process. During the endorsement process, each candidate was asked about integrity and their commitment to work across the aisle to benefit

Illinois students. Stand then works to hold the candidates it endorses accountable, and Stand urges them and all candidates to fight for educational equity for all students.

Stand for Children IL PAC's 2018 endorsed candidates are:

For State Senate

Rep. Laura Fine (D-9)

Sen. Tom Cullerton (D-23)

Sen. Chris Nybo (R-24)

Sen. Dan McConchie (R-26)

Sen. Don DeWitte (R-33)

Sen. Andy Manar (D-48)

Rachelle Aud Crowe (D-56)

For State Representative

Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz (D-17)

Rep. Rob Martwick (D-19)

Rep. Margo McDermed (R-37)

Rep. Anna Moeller (D-43)

Rep. Fred Crespo (D-44)

Rep. Deb Conroy (D-46)

Rep. Peter Breen (R-48)

Rep. Michelle Mussman (D-56)

Daniel Didech (D-59)

Rep. Sam Yingling (D-62)

Jake Castanza (D-68)

Rep. Joe Sosnowski (R-69)

Rep. Stephanie Kifowit (D-84)

Rep. John Connor (D-85)

Rep. Avery Bourne (R-95)

Rep. Mark Batinick (R-97)

Rep. Natalie Manley (D-98)

Rep. Natalie Phelps Finnie (D-118)

Stand for Children IL PAC endorses only in contested races. Any candidate in a contested State Senate or House race is eligible for consideration of endorsement. In making its endorsement decisions, Stand for Children IL PAC considered a wide variety of factors including voting records, questionnaire responses, interviews, viability, track record for fighting for educational equity, and alignment with the organization's mission.

For more information on Stand's endorsed candidates please visit stand.org/illinois/action/elect-education-champions.

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Stand for Children Illinois is a non-partisan education advocacy organization that fights for educational equity. Here in Illinois, Stand is fighting for the state to provide fair and adequate school funding that is spent wisely. Stand is also focused on ensuring that all students receive a high quality, relevant education and deeply concerned that our state has the second highest rate in the country of high schoolers leaving for out-of-state colleges.

(Paid for by Stand for Children IL PAC)