



STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Stephanie Gadlin

312/329-6250 (office)

CTU responds to binding arbitration request

CHICAGO - Today, Chicago Teachers Union spokeswoman Stephanie Gadlin released the following statement in response to a CPS request for binding arbitration:

This so-called request for arbitration is a CPS publicity stunt before President Lewis' City Club speech today at noon. We have hundreds of members in Springfield right now fighting for progressive revenue and an end to the budget stalemate. While Karen is delivering her speech at noon, our members will be marching on the governor's mansion in Springfield. CTU does not have binding interest arbitration because we choose to negotiate and write our own contracts---plus police and fire, as he referenced, cannot strike. We can't say we're interested in this until we know the rules of arbitration and under what terms. Binding arbitration puts our fate in the hand of a single person rather than our nearly 30,000 rank and file members.

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The Chicago Teachers Union represents nearly 27,000 teachers and educational support personnel working in the Chicago Public Schools, and by extension, the more than 400,000 students and families they serve. The CTU is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers and the Illinois Federation of Teachers and is the third largest teachers local in the United States and the largest local union in Illinois. For more information please visit CTU's website at www.ctunet.com.
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