



STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Stephanie Gadlin

312/329-6250 (office)

CTU Responds Governor Bruce Rauner's misguided comments about the one-day teachers strike

CHICAGO- Today, Chicago Teachers Union President Karen Lewis released the following statement in response to Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner's assertion that a one-day strike against unfair labor practices is illegal:

"Physicians take a Hippocratic Oath to uphold ethical standards when dealing with patients' health. Governor Bruce Rauner, who continues to suffocate the life out of the state, has today taken a Hypocritical Oath to do what is in the best interest of children as he denounces the very people who are fighting for them," said Lewis. "Chicago's public school educators have taken a bold stand by uniting with students, parents, workers and communities to fight for revenue for our schools during a one-day Unfair Labor Practice Strike.

"Since Rauner has been in office he has failed to govern. Instead he has come in like the venture capitalist he is to slash budgets, restrict funding for critical social services, destroy Chicago's school district—along with Chicago State University, and hold every citizen of our state hostage to his failed turnaround agenda. Simply put, he is bad for Illinois," she said.

"Instead of attacking people in public service who have devoted their lives to educating children, he should use his title to make a positive difference in people's lives," Lewis said. "We are calling for progressive revenue solutions for our schools and state. Teachers are about solutions—and we are united with people across this city and state to fight for them."

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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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