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President Don Harmon
Illinois Senate
6941-B W. North Ave.
Oak Park, IL 60302

Dear President Harmon:

Happy New Year! I hope you were able to get some rest over the holidays.

I am writing today to express the Illinois AFL-CIO's support of HB 2275, sponsored by Senator Cunningham, and ask that the Senate pass the bill during the remaining days of the 101st General Assembly.

The right to collectively bargain is fundamental to establishing safe working conditions, fair appropriate compensation, and provide for the common good in our communities. This is particularly important in school settings, as providing real equity to low-income students and students of color is vital for both our democracy and our workforce.

HB 2275 is an important equity measure for 20% of students in Illinois, as well as tens of thousands of workers. HB 2275 overturns a component of the 1995 Chicago School Reform Act that put unacceptable limitations on subjects of collective bargaining for every bargaining unit in the Chicago Public Schools, including limits on negotiating over staffing levels, time and location of work, health and safety standards, and outsourcing work to third-party contractors, all of which have taken on heightened importance during the COVID-19 pandemic. CPS is the only district in the state with this particular provision, and even within CPS, charter school operators are required to negotiate over these crucial issues.

The right to collectively bargain over these crucial issues is of the utmost importance to the Illinois AFL-CIO and our affiliated unions. HB 2275 restores bargaining rights for workers in the State's largest school district and brings fairness and equity to educational collective bargaining in Illinois. The AFL-CIO is asking that you please support this bill and assist in its passage. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

With warmest regards,

Tim Drea
President

Pat Devaney
Secretary Treasurer