

April 22, 2010

The Honorable Pat Quinn, Governor  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Quinn:

I am urging you to take action to stop the devastating cuts facing the Chicago Public Schools. The children of Chicago, like children across Illinois, need level state funding this year. The cost of these cuts to our children's future is too high.

CPS currently faces a \$600 million deficit. We know that the General Assembly took action to pass pension legislation that provides short-term relief to CPS, and we thank you for that. However, more than of the remaining deficit, \$368 million, is the direct result of proposed state cuts in funding for CPS.

Without action from Springfield, \$600 million in budget cuts CPS will be forced to make will have a drastic impact, including:

- **Increased** class sizes of up to 35 students.
- **Layoffs** of more than 2,700 hardworking teachers.
- **Major reductions** in after-school programs.
- **Major reductions** in funding for magnet, Montessori, gifted and other specialized programs.
- **Significant cuts** in Bilingual education.
- **Major reductions** in full-day kindergarten programs.
- **Significant reductions** in charter and contract school per-pupil funding.

I understand that you face difficult decisions during these tough economic times. However, as a parent and a constituent, I ask that you not balance the state's budget on the backs of those most at need—our children. I ask that you support and advocate for level state funding for education in Illinois.

Sincerely,

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