

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 15, 2026

The Honorable Tim Wahlberg
Chairman
House Committee on Education and Workforce
2166 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Wahlberg:

We are concerned about the letter dated November 20, 2025¹, sent to the Chicago Teachers Union as part of the Committee on Education and the Workforce's investigation into Republican-sought reforms of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA).

The Chicago Teachers Union (Teachers AFL-CIO, Local Union 1) filed² a LM-2 report on September 24, 2025, with the U.S. Department of Labor, as required by law³. In fact, the Chicago Teachers Union (Teachers AFL-CIO, Local Union 1) filed a LM-2 report for each of the 5-year periods that your letter questions⁴.

Given the availability of financial reports, consistent with their obligations under the LMRDA, we find it curious that the Committee suggests that CTU is "keeping complete financial information from its own members" or "flout[ing]" LMRDA requirements.⁵

Given the spurious nature of the claims and that the sole citations are sourced from the Illinois Policy Institute, a locally controversial organization⁶ previously registered as a lobbying entity until 2013⁷, we are concerned that the inquiry itself is overtly partisan in nature.

¹ Tim Walberg and Rick W. Allen, *Letter from Committee on Education and Workforce to the President of Chicago Teachers Union*, (Nov. 20, 2025),

https://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/11.20.25_ctu_audit_investigation_letter.pdf

² United States Department of Labor, *Office of Labor-Management Standards (OLMS) – LM Reports and Constitutions and Bylaws* (January 14, 2026), <https://olmsapps.dol.gov/olpdr/#Union%20Reports/Union%20Search/>

³ 29 U.S.C. §§ 401-531.

⁴ United States Department of Labor, *Office of Labor-Management Standards (OLMS) – LM Reports and Constitutions and Bylaws, Union Search* (January 14, 2026),

<https://olmsapps.dol.gov/olpdr/#Union%20Reports/Union%20Search/>

⁵ Tim Walberg and Rick W. Allen, *Letter from Committee on Education and Workforce to the President of Chicago Teachers Union*, (Nov. 20, 2025),

https://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/11.20.25_ctu_audit_investigation_letter.pdf

⁶ Scott Reeder and the Illinois Policy Institute v. Michael J. Madigan, et al., *Appeal from the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois*, (March 11, 2015),

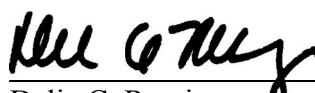
[https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/appellate-courts/ca7/14-1923/14-1923-2015-03-11.html#:~:text=Reeder%20and%20IPI%20\(to%20whom,basis%20of%20absolute%20legislative%20immunity](https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/appellate-courts/ca7/14-1923/14-1923-2015-03-11.html#:~:text=Reeder%20and%20IPI%20(to%20whom,basis%20of%20absolute%20legislative%20immunity)

⁷ Washington Post, *Trump administration announces dismantling of parts of Education Dept.* (November 18, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2025/11/18/trump-administration-announce-dismantling-much-education-dept/>

The Chicago Teachers Union has been a consistent advocate for our constituents, our public schools, and our communities. While the Trump Administration seeks to defund schools, dismantle the Department of Education, eliminate protections for students with special needs, and roll back the clock on equal access to education,⁸ the Chicago Teachers Union fights to preserve — and increase — the resources, programs, and protections that our constituents rely on and deserve.⁹

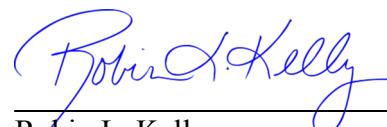
Students and families expect Congress to ensure they can access high-quality education in safe environments that prepare them to contribute to our global economy. That is why we encourage you to put an immediate end to all partisan attacks against labor unions and refocus the time and effort of the Committee on Education and Workforce on efforts that will improve student outcomes and prepare the next generation of leaders.

Sincerely,



Delia C. Ramirez

Member of Congress



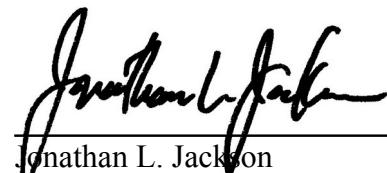
Robin L. Kelly

Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García

Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky

Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky

Member of Congress

⁸ WTTW, *Chicago Teachers Have a Tentative Contract Agreement. From Pay Raises to Class Sizes, Here's What It Includes* (April 1, 2025), <https://news.wttw.com/2025/04/01/chicago-teachers-union-touts-historic-achievement-tentative-contract-agreement-announced>

⁹ ProPublica, *As Conservative Group Grows In Influence, Financial Dealings Enrich Its Leaders* (February 8, 2018) <https://www.propublica.org/article/illinois-policy-institute-john-tillman-transactions>