

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 2026

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman
House Committee on Education and Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Walberg:

As Members of Congress from the Illinois delegation, we write to express our deep concern regarding the House Committee on Education and Workforce's Hearing, "Breaking Trust: Attacks on Parental Rights, Inappropriate Content, and Legal Abuses in America's Schools,"¹ on June 10th, 2026. It is clear that the Republican Majority intends to continue its campaign of weaponizing oversight and federal education funding to target our diverse student bodies and attack the school districts and educators seeking to effectively meet their needs.

In the spirit of dangerous bills like H.R.2616,² which every democratic member of our delegation opposed on the floor, you are using June 10th's hearing to push legislation that censors our classrooms, puts children in danger, and prioritizes the whims of politicians in Washington over the expertise of local school leaders. Attacks on Chicago Public Schools (CPS) are just another tactic in your broader attack on democratic-led strongholds and your anti-"diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)" agenda.

Contrary to your assertions that a focus on the needs and well-being of diverse student populations leads to "plummeting" student achievement, based on data furnished by Chicago Public Schools, demonstrate strong educational achievement from the students they serve:³

- In **math and reading**, CPS students in Grades K-2 are outperforming students in peer districts.

¹ "Full Committee Hearing: 'Breaking Trust: Attacks on Parental Rights, Inappropriate Content, and Legal Abuses in America's Schools,'" Committee on Education & the Workforce, June 10, 2026, <https://edworkforce.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=413291>.

² Rep. Tim Walberg, "H.R.2616 - 119th Congress (2025-2026): Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act," Congress.Gov, accessed June 5, 2026, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/2616>.

³ Chicago Public Schools (CPS), <https://www.cps.edu/>.

- In **math and reading**, benchmark/screener results for Grades 3-8 show upward trends of +4.0% for mid or above grade level comprehension.
- In **math and reading**, CPS students are showing gains in Star360 testing with a +1.58% increase in at/above benchmark and a +3.11% increase, respectively.
- In **reading**, students with disabilities showed +14% more growth, and English learners showed at least +36% growth.
- More CPS students are **graduating with college credits**.
- In 2025, CPS students earned a record of **2,758** Career and Technical Education (CTE) certifications.

Data does not lie. Intentional investments that celebrate and acknowledge the differences and diversity of CPS students drive performance and educational progress.

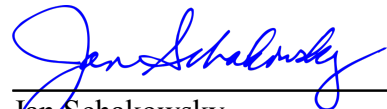
Let us be clear that attacks on diversity are attacks on the civil rights and liberties of our students to receive a quality public education. Schools are meant to be sanctuary spaces for our young people– including those of the LGBTQI+ community – to dream, grow, and realize their full potential. Parents, teachers, mentors, advocates, and neighbors across Chicago *are* working together every day to realize the safe, loving, and affirming school environments every child deserves.

The targeting of the Chicago Public Schools – and school districts that prioritize the well-being of and care for diverse children – is just another tactic to punish and persecute the communities resisting authoritarianism and standing against bigotry. It is unacceptable to use the power of Congress to bully children and their families. As Members of Congress, we affirm our fundamental belief that every child is precious and deserving of dignity, love, care, and opportunity. We will continue to defend our LGBTQI+ children.

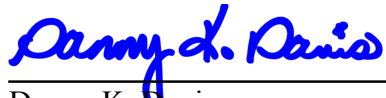
Sincerely,



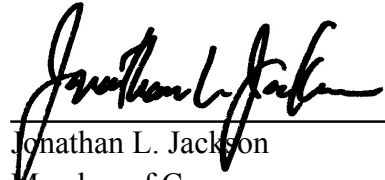
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



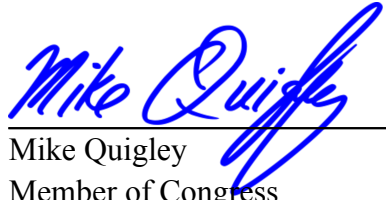
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



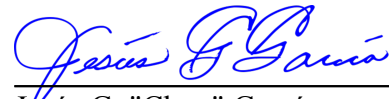
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



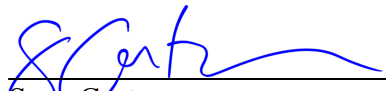
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



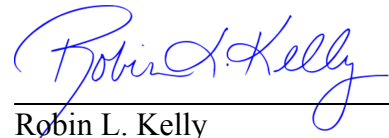
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress