

January 13, 2021

## **Grassroots Education Movement (GEM) Coalition Response to HB2267 Outcome:**

More of the Same; Mayor and Senate President Delay Democracy to Chicago's Black & Latinx Families

We are outraged that despite widespread public support, support from two thirds of the State Senate, and a Mayor that ran on a campaign promise of an elected school board, HB2267 was once again not called for a vote. Chicago will remain the only school district in Illinois without an elected school board.

Senate President Don Harmon, who claims that he is not his predecessor, has continued to fail the Black and Latinx families of Chicago by stalling the passage of the bill. We are also appalled at the dishonesty of Mayor Lori Lightfoot. When she ran for Mayor, she committed to support an independent, fully elected school board as soon as possible. **Chicagoans took Mayor Lightfoot at her word, and, unfortunately, she has proven unworthy of that trust.**

The Mayor operated in the dark, went against her campaign promise, and pushed for a hybrid board. A hybrid board is still mayoral control, and it begs the question: **why are Chicago politicians so afraid of democracy in public education?**

While over 90% of America's school boards are elected, unelected school boards are only imposed on districts that serve predominantly Black and Latinx students. This is voter suppression, plain and simple.

Chicago's 25-year experiment with an unelected school board through mayoral control has been a disaster. School closings, turnarounds and consolidations have disrupted the education for thousands of low-income students of color and contributed to the purge of 250,000 Black people from Chicago since 2000. Over 50,000 Black students have been purged from the system since 2000.

We will continue to fight for the passage of the Elected Representative School Board bill in the 102nd General Assembly. We will continue to hold our elected officials accountable. **Democracy has been delayed in Chicago but it will not be denied.**

Action Now  
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council  
Cook County College Teachers Union  
Enlace Chicago  
Grassroots Collaborative  
Illinois Families for Public Schools  
Journey for Justice  
Kenwood Oakland Community Organization  
Logan Square Neighborhood Association  
Lugenia Burns Hope Center  
Northside Action 4 Justice  
Parent 4 Teachers  
Pilsen Alliance  
Raise Your Hand for Illinois Public Education