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October 14, 2008

Cheryle R. Jackson  
President and CEO  
The Chicago Urban League  
4510 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60653

Dear Ms. Jackson,

Illinois PTA is seeking to be added as a “Friend of the Court” to the lawsuit filed by The Chicago Urban League on August 20, 2008, against the State of Illinois and the Illinois State Board of Education calling for the states current school funding scheme to be declared unconstitutional and in violation of the Illinois Civil Rights Act of 2003,

Illinois PTA, an organization of approximately 150,000 members, advocates for all children and youth of the state. The third object of the PTA is “to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth”. To that end, Illinois PTA maintains a *Legislative Platform and Explanation* book, used to inform and assist our members on current State of Illinois practices which states in Item 2-b., Adequate and Equitable Sources of Revenue for Schools.

“The Illinois PTA believes the State must take seriously its responsibility as stated in Article X of the Illinois Constitution that, “The State has primary responsibility for financing the system of public education.”

In 2007 the Illinois PTA issued a concise statement of our position on school funding reform, using this platform as its basis, which reads in part, “The Illinois PTA will continue to seek legislative action that is designed to provide long-term, sustainable funding which fosters equity, respects local control, encourages improved teaching and learning, provides property tax relief, and addresses both the structural deficit and under-funded pension issues.”

Thank you for all you are doing on behalf of the children and youth of Illinois.

Jean Razunas  
Illinois PTA State President