

## **Legislative Director Report – Kevin Palmer, April and May 2021**

### **Spring contacts**

Given the current Pandemic, I remained in contact with legislators via social media and emails. I have thanked them for navigating these unusual times and especially thanked them for addressing issues related to remote learning.

### **Coordinating with IFT Legislative Director John Cusick**

I continue to coordinate all upcoming legislative issues as well as contacting legislators with John. John is a great source for accessing legislators and will continue to keep me informed up future events.

### **Contact with State Legislators**

I remain in touch with state legislators via social media and emails.

In early May, I reached out to several Chicago legislators with the following message, asking for their support in helping pass Progressive Revenue Measures to improve funding for public schools. I received several positive replies back, all in support of such measures and vowing their support even for re-introducing the Progressive Tax Measure that unfortunately failed in 2020.

Hello, I'm reaching out to urge you to pass progressive revenue options like closing corporate tax loopholes and decoupling from unwise federal tax provisions. This is the only way Illinois can end the structural deficit we face every year. I call on you and the legislature to use our resources today to prevent these annual deficits from becoming worse in the future and provide resources to critical programs and services for the lowest income Illinoisans.

As always, thank you for being a strong advocate for education in Illinois.

Kevin Palmer

Legislative Director, Northwest Suburban Teachers Union - Local 1211

I also contacted the same legislators thanking them for the recent HB2908, a bill to implement an elected school board in Chicago. While it has passed the House, it is still stuck in the Senate. The Governor has indicated that he will sign the legislation once passed by both chambers/