

Brad Graba Legislative Director's Report – November 18, 2021

August 24, 2021 – attended a fundraiser for Senators Cristina Castro and Laura Murphy at a Schaumburg Boomers stadium to meet them and introduce myself as one of the legislative directors.

September 7, 2021 – met with Steve Elza, Kevin Palmer, and Gerri Songer to start to learn about the role of the legislative director

September 23, 2021 – attended district 211 school board meeting

October 2, 2021 – Attended West Suburban Teachers' Union Local 571's 16th Annual Legislative Breakfast. Met with State Representative Meg Loughran Cappel

October 10, 2021 – Attended the Schaumburg Area Democrats Meet the Candidates Breakfast. I had the chance to speak briefly with Cristina Castro. Speaker Welch, Secretary of State Jesse White, Chair of the Democratic Party of Illinois Robin Kelly, and many others spoke.

October 18-19, 2021 – Participated in Lobby Days in Springfield. Met with Dave Comerford of the IFT, Steve Elza, and Gerri Songer to receive training on working as a Legislative Director. We sat in on a Zoom call with the AFL-CIO as well. We had dinner with Steve Elza, Gerri Songer, Dave Comerford, Sen. Cristina Castro, Sen. Laura Murphy, Sen. Ann Gillespie, Rep. Mark Walker, Rep. Fred Crespo, Rep. Anna Moeller, and Sen. Adriane Johnson. In the meeting we lobbied for the passage of HB 2778, that provides administrative days rather than sick days up to 14 days for teachers who get COVID or have to care for a child with COVID, regardless of vaccination status as long as the unvaccinated individual is complying with the weekly testing mandate. It also provides for hourly employees to still receive pay should a school be forced to switch to remote learning for any period of time.

October 20, 2021 – Sent thank you emails to all State Representatives and State Senators who joined us for dinner the evening of the 18th.

October 27, 2021 – communicated with Dave Comerford regarding the Illinois Principal's Association lobbying against HB 2778 and the progress of the bill in the house and senate.

November 15, 2021 – communicated with Dave Comerford about HB 2778. He indicated the bill passed on November 1st. The legislature has 30 days to send it to the governor, but it has not been sent yet. In the debate on the house floor, the bill sponsor said the governor's office had indicated he would veto the bill because he does not like that unvaccinated teachers are covered by it. The bill passed the house by 92-23, and the senate by a vote of 53-1. All who attended our dinner, as well as Representative Mussman and Representative Loughran-Cappel, who I met at the West Suburban Teacher's Local Legislative Breakfast, voted yes. Representative Tom Morrison voted no. There is a veto-proof majority for the bill in both houses, so should Governor Pritzker veto it, we feel good that it will still go into effect.