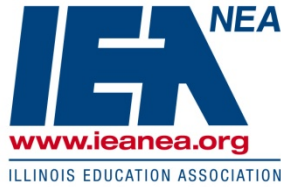




*A Union of Professionals*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Statement from the Illinois Federation of Teachers, the Illinois Education Association, and the Chicago Teachers Union, regarding the comments by Stand for Children's CEO, Jonah Edelman, recorded at the Aspen Ideas Festival.*

For more information on this story, go to: <http://bit.ly/nsijKz>

**July 12, 2011** - We were disappointed to hear the views of Stand for Children's leader and his own assessment of his organization's involvement in Illinois politics.

We heard a lot from Jonah Edelman about power in politics, power over unions and management power over teachers. Sadly, we didn't hear anything in that hour-long session about improving education.

Frankly, Edelman was never actively engaged in that collaborative process.

By falsely claiming to have manipulated people engaged in honest negotiations, Stand for Children's leader jeopardizes the ability of education stakeholders to work collaboratively in the future. That can make it harder to improve education quality for children. That's wrong.

What's worse is that these false claims clearly show an organizational agenda that has nothing to do with helping kids learn.

Jonah Edelman's mischaracterization of the SB7 negotiations will not change our commitment to do what is right for kids and to make sure the adults are treated fairly.

However, his openness about Stand for Children's tactics and agenda will make it very difficult for any education advocate or politician to interact with the organization in the future.

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