



May 24, 2010

Dear Governor Brewer,

Today I write to you in strong support of Arizona's Round 2 application for Race to the Top funds. Since Stand for Children arrived in Arizona nine months ago, we have witnessed a sustained, inclusive, and driven effort to build an education reform infrastructure that dramatically improves student outcomes over time. Race to the Top Funds will accelerate that progress.

Though arguably in the worst financial position of any in the nation, Arizona has not let this get in the way of pushing forward for an improved educational system.

More than a dozen laws that will meaningfully improve public education passed this year alone, including legislation to improve school accountability, assess and modernize data systems, diversify tracks for high school students, and improve articulation to post-secondary.

This package of bills includes SB1040, which *Stand for Children* helped draft and worked diligently with the Governor's Office, the Legislature, the State Board of Education and a range of statewide education associations to pass.

SB1040 puts into law a data-driven, student focused accountability system for teachers and principals statewide. This approach ensures that, for the first time, *individual* teachers and principals across the whole state are evaluated using student progress as a measure.

The failure to incorporate this information for teachers is a gap that has been glaring since the passage of Proposition 301, Arizona's dedicated sales tax for teacher pay approved in 2000. SB1040 resolves the evaluation piece of this system and gives districts and charters the balanced information they need to help students and make good decisions about their teaching and learning professionals.

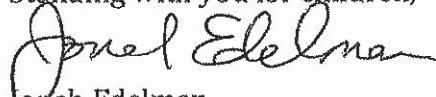
As you assess the level of commitment across stakeholders groups, please note that the final product was a consensus piece of legislation with substantive input from the Arizona Education Association, the Arizona School Boards Association, the Arizona Charter School Association, the Arizona Administrators Association, the business community, and many of the State's foundations and philanthropy organizations.

Indeed, this bill, as well as many others mentioned in the application, passed with overwhelming bi-partisan support. SB1040, the many other sensible, positive education reform bills passed this legislative session, and now the state's strong Round 2 Race to the Top Application, illustrate the depth of the commitment and the capacity that exists in Arizona to improve public schools for all children.

We wholeheartedly support the Round 2 application and we look forward to continue to working closely with you and a wide range of additional stakeholders to make measurable progress for Arizona students.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Standing with you for children,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonah Edelman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jonah Edelman

CEO - Stand for Children