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Feb 2, 2018

Dear ISU Graduate Students,

I stand in solidarity with you and support your campaign to form a union. I believe in your right to collectively bargain, and as governor, I will protect the rights of workers across our state to bargain collectively over their wages, benefits, and working conditions in the public and private sectors.

Illinois' colleges and universities are the backbone of our local economies. Institutions like ISU are some of our state's greatest economic engines, and Bruce Rauner has done lasting damage to local communities and to our education system through manufactured crises and three years of instability.

Bruce Rauner has caused a loss of faith in our institutions of higher learning. Some teaching assistants saw their stipends cut in half as a result of Bruce Rauner's mismanagement. There have been double digit declines in enrollment at several Illinois universities and layoffs of faculty and staff. Students, families, and school administrators have reported that the budget crisis and Rauner's clear indifference toward public universities have shaken people's confidence in our state's commitment to higher education. As a result, tens of thousands of students have left the state, and many will never return.

Bruce Rauner is also attacking the labor movement in Illinois. As governor, unlike Bruce Rauner, I will make sure the state recognizes the value of partnering with organized labor to ensure economic justice and fairness. For graduate students at ISU, that means we must expand the opportunity to form a union to research assistants at our public universities. When I'm governor, I will work with stakeholders to change the law so we can expand the opportunity to form a union to research assistants.

As governor, you will have a partner in Springfield who understands the value of the work you do. I support your campaign to form a union because we need to make sure our public university system works for every student.

In Solidarity,

JB Pritzker

Democratic Candidate for Governor

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PAID FOR BY JB FOR GOVERNOR