



## RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

for Locals (ESP, Certified, and Higher Ed) and School Boards

**WHEREAS**, Education Support Professionals (ESPs) are the backbone of Pre-K through 12 public education and also work in higher education institutions; more than half a million Education Support Professional members across the country take care of our children every day; they ensure all students have the tools they need to succeed in our schools, classrooms, and higher education institutions; ESPs are comprised of nine career families working in clerical services, custodial and maintenance services, food services, health and student services, security services, skilled trades, technical services, and transportation services and as paraeducators; ESPs are not treated, respected, nor valued the same as teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, ESPs interact daily with students, parents, and staff; ESPs keep schools open, operational, safe, accessible, and clean for students, staff, and the community at all times; ESPs ensure that students have access to safe and nutritious meals and ensure that school districts are complying with the federal free and reduced meal guidelines; ESPs perform a wide variety of health assistance that improves and protects student health and welfare; ESPs perform professional responsibilities that contribute directly to student achievement by providing direct services to students and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, ESPs have a clear understanding of not only security techniques but also the unique nature of the school population with whom they work; ESPs maintain and improve the physical quality of school buildings, offices, and facilities; ESPs lead the effort to maintain high standards of technology and communication in our schools; ESPs transport students to and from school safely, and an ESP is the first people to greet each student in the morning and last to say goodbye as they return home; and

**WHEREAS**, The starting salaries of many ESPs remain below a living wage in the state of Illinois according to the ISBE Non-certified Salary Study; ESPs also often do not qualify for health benefits or use most or all of their wages to pay for health benefits; some ESPs earn at or near poverty level and qualify for government assistance; many ESPs must work more than one job to provide for their families; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, by \_\_\_\_\_, that Education Support Professionals in public schools should be treated with the same respect, recognition, value, and standards as teachers and should be recognized as providing invaluable services to school communities; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That we urge the Illinois General Assembly to enact solutions that include, but are not limited to, legislated salary parity, quality, accessible professional development and training, mandated access to health benefits, and summer unemployment insurance for all education support professionals.

**Organization Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Leader Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Leader Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Leader Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Leader Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_