



**PRESS RELEASE from
LIBERTY JUSTICE CENTER**

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Arizona parent confronts school district, union over illegal teacher “sick out” in Chandler

CHANDLER, Ariz. (January 13, 2021) — A parent of a student in one of Arizona’s largest school districts is placing teachers union and school leaders on notice if teachers repeat an illegal work stoppage that took place in December. As the Chandler Unified School District Board of Education meets again this evening to consider a plan to return to in-person education next week, this parent is demanding that the district and union recognize the previous “sick-out” by teachers was an illegal strike.

In December, hundreds of Chandler Unified teachers called in sick to demand a return to virtual learning. Another sick-out was threatened the first week of January but did not materialize after the Chandler board pushed back the in-person start date.

The parent is represented by attorneys from the Liberty Justice Center, a nonprofit law firm that won a pivotal Supreme Court case against government unions in 2018.

“When hundreds of teachers refuse to report to work by falsely claiming to be sick, that’s an organized sick-out. A sick-out is a form of strike, and a teacher strike is illegal in the State of Arizona,” **Liberty Justice Center senior attorney Daniel Suhr** said after sending a demand letter addressed to district union, the Chandler Education Association, and administration leaders.

“More and more studies are showing the tremendous drop in academic performance that accompanies forced virtual learning,” Suhr continued. “Our nation’s students need to be in school, not used as pawns in union negotiations. The leaders of this action must not only be called out, but also prevented from repeating their recent illegal strike. It is time for unions and administrators to be held accountable for this and similar efforts across Arizona. Kids have to come first.”

The demand letter is available here: <https://libertyjusticecenter.org/media/arizona-parent-confronts-teacher-sick-out>

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The Liberty Justice Center is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public-interest litigation center that represents clients at no charge and was founded to fight against political privilege. The most recent example of the Liberty Justice Center’s national success in this arena is its 2018 U.S. Supreme Court victory in *Janus v. AFSCME*. Beyond its work in the *Janus* case, the Liberty Justice Center’s team of talented, liberty-minded attorneys also fight to protect economic liberty, private property rights, free speech, school choice and other fundamental rights. The Liberty Justice Center pursues its goals through strategic, precedent-setting litigation to revitalize constitutional restraints on government power and protections for individual rights. Learn more about the Liberty Justice Center at LibertyJusticeCenter.org.