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STATEMENT FROM ILLINOIS LATINO AGENDA:

Illinois Latino Agenda Urges Focus on Students Amid CPS CEO Uncertainty *media interviews available*

CHICAGO - The following is a statement from the <u>Illinois Latino Agenda</u> in response to the ongoing reports that <u>Mayor Johnson continues on his quest to oust CPS CEO Pedro Martinez</u>:

"Latino leaders are deeply concerned by the ongoing speculation and political distractions surrounding the future of CPS CEO Pedro Martinez, who has been a stabilizing force for CPS. Just this week, under his leadership, the Chicago Board of Education <u>unanimously approved</u> the passage of a five-year strategic plan aimed at improving the quality of education for all students and getting more kids into our neighborhood schools.

"Now, more than ever, the focus must remain on students, their educational achievements and the continued success of CPS. Under Martinez's leadership, students' reading scores have increased, and more high school students are graduating with college credits, providing them with a head start toward higher education.

"Mr. Martinez's leadership has delivered measurable results. Ultimately the CPS board is officially responsible for any decision to remove a leader who has demonstrated a commitment to improving educational outcomes for all CPS students."

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