

EXAMINE THE FACTS

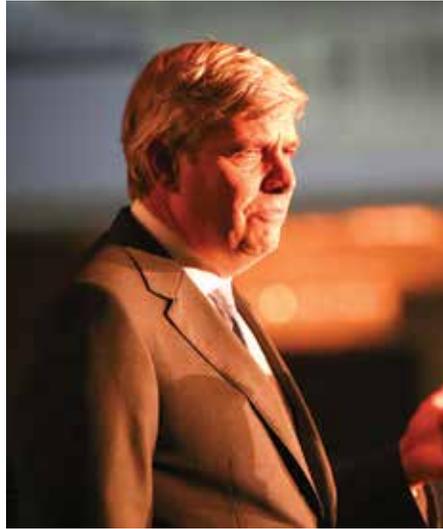
A CLOSER LOOK AT BOB STEFANOWSKI

Bob Stefanowski declined to fill out CEA's questionnaire. His website provides no insights into his views on education, but he supports plans like those of Betsy DeVos to privatize public schools, and he has a long history of supporting the corporate elite at the expense of unions.

He applauded the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Janus v. AFSCME*, aimed at stripping away the rights and freedoms of teachers and working people. "Thank God for the *Janus* decision," he said. "The nice part about it is it gives us a lot more power with the union leadership... It takes them out right at the knees. When I saw that decision come through, I was clicking my heels three times."

Indeed, Stefanowski has called for "dramatic changes" in pensions and fringe benefits for state employees and is seeking greater concessions from labor. He believes in reopening state labor contract negotiations and has said, "If that doesn't work, I'll remind them that the firing freeze is only for four years, and on year five, we're going to privatize some serious stuff."

His plans for privatization are not limited to state services but extend to public schools as well. In an August



primary debate, on the subject of public education, Stefanowski declared, "We need to provide more choice. We need to invite the private sector in, because 99 times out of 100, the private sector is better at running something than the government is." He also voiced his support for "pay for performance and outcome-based teaching," adding, "All of those things from the private sector would be well-utilized in our public schools."

Not only do Stefanowski's proposals for our public schools sound like those

of Betsy DeVos and her network of corporate reformers, but his economic plans for Connecticut are reminiscent of those deployed in states like Kansas, where in 2012 the governor attempted to cut the state income tax by promising trickle-down economic prosperity—and instead eviscerated the state's education system. Stefanowski's "tax-cuts-spur-growth" notion for Connecticut has resulted in real damage—namely, slashed education programs and school funding—in several other states.

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