**Cancel Wall Street to Reopen Schools Safely!**

***Big Banks Owe Us for Their Long History of Racism and Greed***



**It will cost millions to safely reopen schools this fall**. CPS is rushing to reopen without the proper safety protocols and equipment necessary to protect the health and well-being of every student and teacher because it doesn’t have the money to reopen safely.

**Chicago taxpayers pay more than $1.6 billion a year in interest to investors**. The City of Chicago pays $1.1 billion in interest on debt every year, and CPS pays more than $500 million a year. When there are budget shortfalls, these payments are never on the chopping block. That’s more than enough money to reopen schools safely!

  

**JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, and Bank of America all have long profited from the oppression of Black and other communities of color.** All three banks accepted enslaved Africans as collateral on loans, targeted Black and Latinx customers with predatory mortgages and then foreclosed on them in record numbers, and profited from private prisons and immigrant detention centers.

**These same banks profit from upholding an unfair system that overcharges taxpayers when they borrow**. State and local governments almost never default on their debt, so why do they have to pay such high interest rates? The Wall Street banks that underwrite government debt target taxpayers with predatory and even illegal deals and make them pay high interest rates to investors so they can rake in big fees.

**These banks have taken billions in taxpayer bailout money**. Banks like JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, and Bank of America only exist today because of the boatloads in taxpayer bailouts they have received over the years.

**We can pay to safely reopen schools if we cancel interest payments on government debt.** Canceling interest payments would *save Chicago taxpayers more than $1.6 billion a year!* The Federal Reserve, which has a long history of bailing out big banks, could cancel interest payments by refinancing state and local government borrowers into new, long-term, interest-free loans.

**We need to stop letting banks like JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, and Bank of America trap us into overly expensive debt deals. If we cancel these banks, we can afford to reopen schools safely!**