



February 21, 2019

Dear Senator Addiego, Assemblyman Howarth and Assemblyman Peters,

On behalf of Evesham Township Schools, the Lenape Regional High School District, Medford Township Schools, Shamong Township Schools, Southampton Township Schools, Tabernacle Township Schools, Woodland Township Schools, and the “Support Our Students” (SOS) advocacy group consisting of 71 school districts state-wide and representing over 150,000 students, we urge you and the State legislature to reconsider state aid cuts for educational funding to school districts in the upcoming budget.

We know that you are a champion for every school – and every child – in your district. Therefore, we ask you to take a lead in ensuring that **every** student in New Jersey continues to receive the quality education that he or she deserves and is entitled to in accordance with the state’s mandate for a thorough and efficient education. State aid cuts hurt our most precious asset----- our children.

We applaud the legislature for increasing state aid to school districts that were previously underfunded. Increased funding for these districts should continue. However, increased funding should not come at the expense of children in school districts facing massive reductions in state aid. Many of these children live in your legislative district, and they will experience the negative impact of cuts with unavoidable reductions in programming and staffing. Please help urge your colleagues and Governor Murphy to find a better way.

We request that a bi-partisan joint committee of the legislature be created to review this critical issue. This committee should include input from all stakeholders (districts receiving increased funding, districts whose funding is neutral, and districts who are subject to state aid cuts).

In conclusion, we appeal to you for help addressing this critical issue. Otherwise, the resulting negative impact on our children’s education due to reductions in state aid will be devastating.

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizen