

Date: _____

Senator Edward A. Rath III
1961 Wehrle Drive Suite 9
Williamsville, NY 14221

Assemblymember Karen McMahon
5500 Main St., Suite 216
Williamsville, NY 14221

Dear _____,

As a concerned supporter of public education in my community, I am writing to request your continued support for public school districts as you negotiate a final state budget over the next number of weeks. While the Executive Budget proposal includes an overall increase in school aid of \$2.1 billion, it reduces the state's responsibility by approximately \$1.7 billion by relying heavily on federal fund. We ask that you push to decrease the over-reliance on federal funds in the proposed budget, as well as:

- Reject attempts to consolidate and eliminate expense-based and categorical aids.
- Expand proposal to reimburse certain transportation expense during the pandemic.
- Support proposal to aid costs to deliver student meals, instructional materials and provide Wi-Fi.
 - Fund those costs in 2020-2021, not only Spring 2020.
 - Reimburse other 'stand-by' transportation during the entirety of the pandemic.
- Reject proposal to cancel funding and eliminate the prior year aid claims list.
- Reject attempts to continue to the shift of certain CSE special education costs from the state to school districts.
- Disconnect tie between the STAR property taxpayer relief program and state aid for schools.
- Increase the undesignated fund balance limit above 4%.
- Increase flexibility with the use of restricted reserves funds.
- Enact at least temporary adjustments to the property tax cap.
 - Minimum 2% allowable growth factor.
 - Eliminate negative tax caps.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication in support of public school districts and our students.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Address: _____