

March 18, 2011

Dear Representative Lesia Liss,

As principal of Schifield Elementary School in the Fitzgerald School District, please listen to my deep concerns over the governor's recent budget proposal. The proposed reduction of \$470 per pupil, along with the increase of the state retirement system to 24.46 percent, will have a direct impact on the education of our young people. This budget proposal will result in Fitzgerald Public Schools reducing their budget by 7 million dollars. This is equivalent to \$2,456 less per student! The instructional program in Fitzgerald will greatly suffer if such a proposal is adopted.

At a time when our entire state is struggling economically, we cannot afford to reduce the educational system in Michigan which is preparing our young people for their future. If we are to be a competitive state that attracts new businesses and is a place people want to be, we must prepare our young people with a state of the art education.

The proposed cuts will force school districts to operate "bare bones" and not even begin to compete in this global society.

Our district in particular continues to see an increase in student need. Our bilingual population is increasing as well as our free and reduced percentages. Michigan families are hurting and they depend on the school systems to provide not only a quality education but a safe place where their basic needs can be met such as meals, mental health services and the technological resources to help them be successful.

This budget proposal not only hurts schools, but it is also a direct hit on Michigan families during already difficult times.

I invite you to come to our school and see our staff at work with our students. Listen to their stories of success and challenges. See for yourself if we can afford to go back to funding level that is less than the 2005-2006 school year. We can't afford to offer a reduced educational system in Michigan!

Please vote against the governor's budget proposal!

Sincerely,

Donna Anderson, Ed. S.
Schryfield Elementary School
Fitzgerald Public Schools
21555 Warner
Warner, MI 48091

Please do not attempt to
fix the financial mistakes
of the past by depriving the
children of our future!

Sincerely,

Stacey Dixon

5451 Harvard Ct.
Warren, MI 48091

3-18-11

Dear Representative Liss,

Proposals HB4306, HB4152, and SB7 will hurt Michigan Children! These proposals will only lead to conditions that will negatively impact achievement such as increasing class sizes, teaching to the test, having fewer trained professionals helping students, and creating negative working environments among others.

I teach in a district with primarily economic disadvantaged families! The passing of these proposals will take away services that help ensure a successful educational experience. This includes bus services, families qualifying for reduced and free lunch, after school support programs. Passing of these proposals sends the message to children and families that education is not valued.

Much research supports prevention + intervention regarding academic behavior, which these bills would not enhance. I encourage you to not attempt to fix or alleviate the former financial difficulties at the demise of our students, school staff, and our communities, as these are more reactive means, versus that of prevention.

I would be more than happy to provide any information regarding research + theory with respect to education + psychology.

Thank you for your time + consideration.

Most sincerely,

Lauren Mangus, MA.

School psychologist

4190 Royal

Berkley, ME 04872

March 18, 2011

Dear Representative Jessica Kiss,

You and your colleagues are presently considering numerous proposals for reforming the present educational system (e.g., HB 4306, HB 4152, SB 7, & Emergency Financial Manager). I encourage you to vote 'no' on all of the bills in order to preserve & enhance the future of Michigan's economy. This includes, but is not limited to students, educational personnel, and our communities as a whole.

There is no proof that passing these bills would help students. They would, however, lead to conditions that would impact achievement and student behavior, which go hand in hand. For example, they could lead to an increase in class size, declinations of quality academic instruction, having fewer trained professionals to help students (such as mental health staff & educators), as well as creating a potential negative working environment.

As a doctoral candidate in the area of educational psychology, I have explored much research regarding the potential ramifications for students that these bills could potentially lead to.

March 18, 2011

Dear Representative Liss,

This letter is in regard to the current bills being considered that will impact our children's education. HB 306, Emergency Financial Managers, HB 4152 and SB7.

As an educator and mother of two, these bills will impact the quality of education our children receive. Please vote "No"! We need adequate school funding to provide supplies, highly qualified teachers and support staff to meet the needs of all students, provide quality education and a safe learning environment.

Respectfully,

Bene J. Gray

March 18, 2011

Dear Representative Liss,

You and your colleagues are currently considering many proposals to reform our educational system, such as HB 4306, HB 4152 and SB 7. I encourage you to vote no on these bills. They are not in the best interest of our children or the future of Michigan. The long term negative repercussions on education and our children's futures will be serious.

Please stand up for our children's future.

Catherine Good

Dear Representative Less,

Proposals HB4306, HB4152 and SB7 will hurt Michigan children! These proposals will only lead to conditions that will negatively impact achievement such as increasing class sizes, teaching to the test, having fewer trained professionals helping students and creating negative working environments among others.

I teach in a district with primarily economically disadvantaged families. Passing of these proposals will take away services that help ensure a successful educational experience. These include bussing, qualifying for free and reduced lunch and after school support programs. Passing of these proposals sends the message to children and families that education is not valued.

Please do not attempt to fix the financial mistakes of the past by depriving the children of the future.

Sincerely, Carmela Reed

March 18, 2011

Dear Representative Liss,

This letter is in regard to the many proposals to reform Michigan's educational system. Please vote no to help support our children... Michigan's future.

Sincerely,
Janice M. Kosi

Dear Representative Leo,

Proposals HB4306, HB4152 and SB7 will hurt Michigan children! These proposals will only lead to conditions that will negatively impact achievement such as increasing class sizes, teaching to the test, having fewer trained professionals helping students and creating negative working environments among others.

I teach in a district with primarily economically disadvantaged families. Passing of these proposals will take away services that help ensure a successful educational experience. These include bussing, qualifying for free and reduced lunch and after school support programs. Passing of these proposals sends the message to children and families that education is not valued.

Please do not attempt to fix the financial mistakes of the past by depriving the children of the future!

Sincerely, Carmela Reed

March 18, 2011

Dear Representative Liss,

Proposals HB 4306, HB 4152, and SBT will hurt our public school children. These proposals will lead to conditions that have been proven to negatively impact achievement, such as increasing class sizes, teaching to tests, having less support staff, and creating negative working environments.

I teach in a district with primarily economically disadvantaged families. The passing of these proposals will take away services that help ensure a successful educational experience, such as adequate transportation, free and reduced lunch, and after-school support programs. The passing of these proposals sends a message that education is not valued.

Please do not attempt to fix the financial mistakes of the past by depriving our children of our future.

Sincerely,

Christine McLatthy

3-18-11

Honorable Lesia Liss,

Thank you! Thank you for defending public education! Thank you for protecting the disenfranchised, low socio economic citizens in our society. Public education is the last great equalizer of our society. Why do students have share the sacrifice? Why is their education worth any less? I see the potential for each child in my class. I also see the future facing them in the experiences of parents and family. They live with parents struggling to make ends meet, parents that never completed their education, and parents that have been incarcerated. Please continue to advocate for them.

Sincerely,

Loi Stone

3-18-2011

Dear Representative Liss,

I am writing in regards to all the bills that are under consideration for education especially HB 4306, HB 4152, and SB7. Save our children. Save their future. I encourage you to vote no on these bills.

Please do not balance the budget on the backs of Michigan's future.

Sincerely,
Joyce Balthazame

Dear Representative Liss,

You and your colleagues are currently considering many proposals to reform our Educational Systems, such as HB 4306, HB 4152, and SB7. These proposals will greatly impact the quality of education for our students. I teach in a low income School district and have been lucky enough to be a part of their daily lives and have a positive impact on their futures.

I have seen first hand what effects limited resources have had on our students. Increasing class sizes will hinder students ability to learn along with teachers ability to teach.

There is no proof that any of the bills before you would help students. They would, however, lead to conditions that have been proven to negatively impact achievement.

Please do not attempt to fix the financial mistakes of the past by depriving the children of our future.

Sincerely,
Shelli McJelly

Dear Representative Liss,

Currently, you and your colleagues are considering many proposals that will greatly affect the education of our Michigan children. I am a proud second grade teacher in the Fitzgerald Public School District of Warren, and our district includes a great team of teachers that are dedicated to teaching each day. Funding is a necessity if we want to continue building a successful future for the children. Budget cuts will lead to increased class sizes, which means that our Michigan students will not get one-on-one time with the teacher to help them build on their weak areas.

Please do not pass HB 4306, HB 4152 and SB 7. I urge you to consider our children.

Sincerely,

Angela Kinyakora

April 7, 2011

Dear Mr. Lesia Jiss,

I am writing to you to avert the financial disaster that the governor proposed cutting ^{\$}470 per pupil or as much as ^{\$}800 per pupil with additional cuts.

The school districts will have to cut programs and enlarge class sizes while working to meet high state standards.

Please vote against this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carolyn M. Pope
4376 Brooklyne
Troy, Mich. 48098

Dear Representative Liss,

I am deeply concerned about the attacks being made on education funding by Governor Snyder. By lowering school funding not only are we hurting our students, we are hurting the future on Michigan. Even if teachers pay for their health care and take a pay cut, we are not going to solve this budget crisis. If we want to build Michigan's economy we need to create an educated population. By slashing education funding we are creating a situation where only the rich will be able to afford a quality education. There will be no avenues that a child born in to poverty will be able to rise out of poverty. A quality education allows people to grow beyond the boundaries of their family history. We should be cultivating our youth not cutting it down.

Quality education takes dollars. Education has been taking cuts for years. Teachers' benefits have been going down and class sizes have been going up. This needs to end. The governor needs to find another way to balance the budget. Perhaps we need to RAISE taxes on those who make more than \$250,000 a year. Perhaps we need to raise taxes in general. Something has got to give...but 40 students in a classroom and teachers making \$60,000 a year...that is just not right! These are PROFESSIONALS, most teachers with more than 4 years of experience have their masters' degree, and those with more than fifteen often have enough credit hours to have a doctorate. Most teachers go into the profession because they want to touch lives. Some are former biologists, researchers, business entrepreneurs, financial managers, they go back to school for their teaching degree because they want to do more with their lives. Those who care teach. Sadly, some will go back if their health care, pay and rights are stripped away. These highly educated professionals do not deserve to be called greedy. In any other field, based on their education and length of workday, they would receive much higher pay and better benefits. These highly educated professionals spend 7 hours of their day caring for your children. Nurturing the MANY who do not have two parents at home to care for them (and this number is growing astronomically). They teach the curriculum, they teach respect, honesty and how to treat others, encourage and listen. Then they go home and raise their children, make them dinner, help them with their homework put them to bed. After all that, they start checking papers. Those who coach spend their evenings and weekend at practices, games and tournaments. Activity advisors spend endless hours organizing charity events, blood drives, dances, and pep rallies. All this they do outside of the normal school day, while still teaching their core classes. What person in their right mind would become a teacher? How are we going to find quality educators?

These proposed budget cuts and installments of EFMs, that know nothing of best educational practices, are insane. I thought republicans were for LESS big government. This is a degradation of democracy. It is wrong and needs to stop. Governor Snyder needs to be stopped. This is NOT the way to balance the budget. There has to be another way. Please help stop these attacks on Michigan's future.

Sincerely,



Angela Sambanis-Olsfyn

Teacher, Warren Consolidated Schools

Robert L Callender
29120 W. Nottingham Cir
Warren, MI 48092
586-751-6079

Ms. Lesia Liss
State Representative
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Monday, April 04, 2011

Dear Ms. Lesia Liss ,

We are counting on you to avert the financial chaos that the Governor's proposed \$470 per-pupil cut will create for Warren Consolidated Schools and our children. This cut, together with other cuts and new state mandates, add up to a total loss of between \$800 and \$1,100 per-pupil or about \$17 million for Warren Consolidated Schools in just one year. That's a major DISINVESTMENT in education and it spells disaster for our kids.

The Governor believes that schools can save large amounts of money by cutting the cost of non-instructional services. As far as Warren Consolidated is concerned, that's a false assumption. The district has already cut these costs to the bare minimum. So an additional 10% won't make a dent in the \$17 million loss.

If the governor's current budget plan is enacted, our schools have no choice left except to make large program cuts and increase class sizes. These will definitely impact the educational lives of our students.

We cannot bring Michigan's economy back by lowering our investment in an educated workforce. The Governor's plan to reduce business taxes and use K-12 School Aid funds to support community colleges and universities is definitely not "shared sacrifice." Schools have already sacrificed a lot. Any more will fall directly on the backs of our children – they are the future of our state.

Sincerely,



Robert L Callender
Father of two future public education students
Warren Mott High School Chemistry Teacher
Warren Consolidated Schools Community member

April 1, 2011

Dear Ms. Lesia Liss,

We are counting on you to avert the financial chaos that the Governor's proposed \$470 per-pupil cut will create for Warren Consolidated Schools and our children. This cut, together with other cuts and new state mandates, add up to a total loss of between \$800 and \$1,100 per-pupil or about \$17 million for Warren Consolidated Schools in just one year. That's a major DISINVESTMENT in education and it spells disaster for our kids.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theresa Schornack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

A "VERY PROUD" Cousino Parent

Theresa Schornack
28423 Los Olas Drive
Warren, MI 48093

4-2-11

Dear Lawmaker,

The Governor's proposed \$470 cut per pupil is unheard of! Do you have any idea of the *damage* it will bring to public schools? We cannot let this happen to our schools and children! This cut, together with other cuts and new state mandates, add up to a total loss of between \$800 and \$1,100 per-pupil. How can we expect our public schools to thrive on this?

The Governor believes that schools can save large amounts of money by cutting the cost of non-instructional services. Districts have already done this in recent years due to all the other previous cuts. And now the Governor wants to cut even more??

If the governor's current budget plan is enacted, our schools have no choice left except to make **LARGE** program cuts and **INCREASE CLASS SIZES**. These will definitely impact the educational lives of our students.

Our public schools have already surrendered so much. These children are the future of our country. I urge you **NOT** to let this happen!

Sincerely,

Bob and Marie Buckley

Concerned Grandparents

Marie Buckley
Bob Buckley

April 2, 2011

Dear Representative Liss,

The recent attacks on education funding and teacher benefits are unfair. Teaching, a profession long considered altruistic is now being demonized by the right. People reprimand for teachers for getting their summers off, yet so often I hear parents praising god when their kids' head back to school...three months with their own 2 or 3 children for 12 hours a day is too much. Teachers spend 7 months out of the year raising other people's children. Summer is our time to regenerate, connect with our kids, with ourselves, so that when we head back to school in September we give your kids the absolute best of ourselves.

Even with a 10% pay cut and slashing our benefits local schools will still be found in a budget crisis. Decreasing the school aid fund will increase class sizes to 40 – 50 kids in a class, slash programs for kids with learning disabilities and further reduce athletic and fine arts funding. How is this quality education? How is this helping to create productive well-educated members of society? It is not. It is hurting one of the nations most precious resources, our youth.

We are counting on you to avert the financial chaos that the Governor's proposed \$470 per-pupil cut will create for Warren Consolidated Schools and our children. This cut, together with other cuts and new state mandates, add up to a total loss of between \$800 and \$1,100 per-pupil or about \$17 million for Warren Consolidated Schools in just one year. That's a major DISINVESTMENT in education and it spells disaster for our kids.

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Sincerely,



Jeremy Olstyn
Paraprofessional, Warren Consolidated Schools
Resident, Berkley, Michigan

**Racahel Pontello
1261 Ridgemoor
Waterford, MI 480328**

April 5, 2011

Ms. Lesia Liss
State Representative
P. O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Liss:

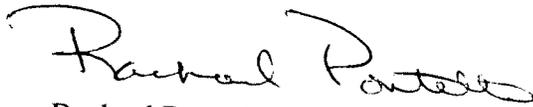
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Sincerely,



Rachael Pontello