

My name is Angela Hill and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in Michigan.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs. Many students and families, including mine, have benefited from public cyber charter schools.

Cyber charter schools serve all students and deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget for our school is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve. Cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

I chose to work at my public cyber charter school because I started my teaching career during the devastating pandemic. Initially, I thought this move would be temporary, but I quickly learned that this type of schooling is needed, important, and a permanent solution for students who traditional schooling is not an option for. I decided to make Uplift my forever home because I see the impact we make on students daily. Students come to us for all different reasons. Some students were bullied at their brick and mortar school. Some students travel a lot. Some students simply didn't like schooling in person. Some students have parents who have difficult work schedules, and schooling virtually just works out better for them. Some students come to us with a lot of trauma, and we are able to create a safe space for them to not only get a quality education, but to get connected to resources and to have a "second family" with our staff and students. Our students are important. Our students deserve the best education they can get. Cutting our budget will be a great disservice to students who deserve the world. I urge you to reconsider this budget cut to make all education accessible and equitable to our Michigan students. Thank you.

*Angela Hill*

Teacher and cyber charter school advocate

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Angel West and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because I am learning and achieving better grades and I am not stuck sitting behind a desk for 8 hours a day.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because my local public wasn't in a good area and I did not feel safe attending school in person. Since starting at Uplift Michigan, my grades have improved as I am able to just focus on school and not my peers and what is happening around me. When I attended in person there were lots of distractions and I had a harder time concentrating on school.

I love attending Uplift Michigan Online School because there is no pressure to socialize or fit in, I am able to work at my own pace. I am able to spend more time outside of school participating in my hobbies and with my family. If I am ever struggling on a concept, I am able to reach out to my teachers and set up meetings where I get to meet with them 1:1 and really work through the concepts until I am confident that I have mastered it.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. If the budget cut passes, Uplift may have to reduce staffing leading to larger class sizes which would make it that teachers have less time to work with students 1:1. Also, my teacher's salaries may be cut and students may feel forced to go in person, which may not be the best for them, like it wouldn't be for me.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Angel West

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Abel Yother. I am a 3rd grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because Well 2 reasons 1. we used to not have a car 2. its easier.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is nice because its a good school.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Abel Yother

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Ansam and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because Uplift has helped me a lot in my Freshman year especially being an online school, the communication is always on point and straightforward.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because... I wanted to try the technology way of learning and I wanted to have more experience with other learning ways. I love how Uplift lets me be as flexible and allows me to learn at my own pace and in my own time. The teachers and students are also very nice and communicative. Uplift is also very organized and is as communicative as an in real life school. Uplift never leaves you hanging; they have small groups and 1:1s that can help an individual if they need help on something or don't understand a certain concept.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. This funding cut could have a big impact on our education and it could result in students having less quality education and less individual attention. I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ansam Alarabi

I love my Cyber Charter school because:

I love my school because I  
love my teachers,  
assignments and friends.  
I can work at my own pace  
with my mom. I love live  
lessons and science !

By: Alex

Age: 6

1st Grade Student  
Uplift Michigan Online School



Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Alexander Tranquilino. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because the in person schools where not duing a good job..

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is stupendously wonder-mazing because I can go by my own pace , I have made long lasting good memories here at Uplift.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

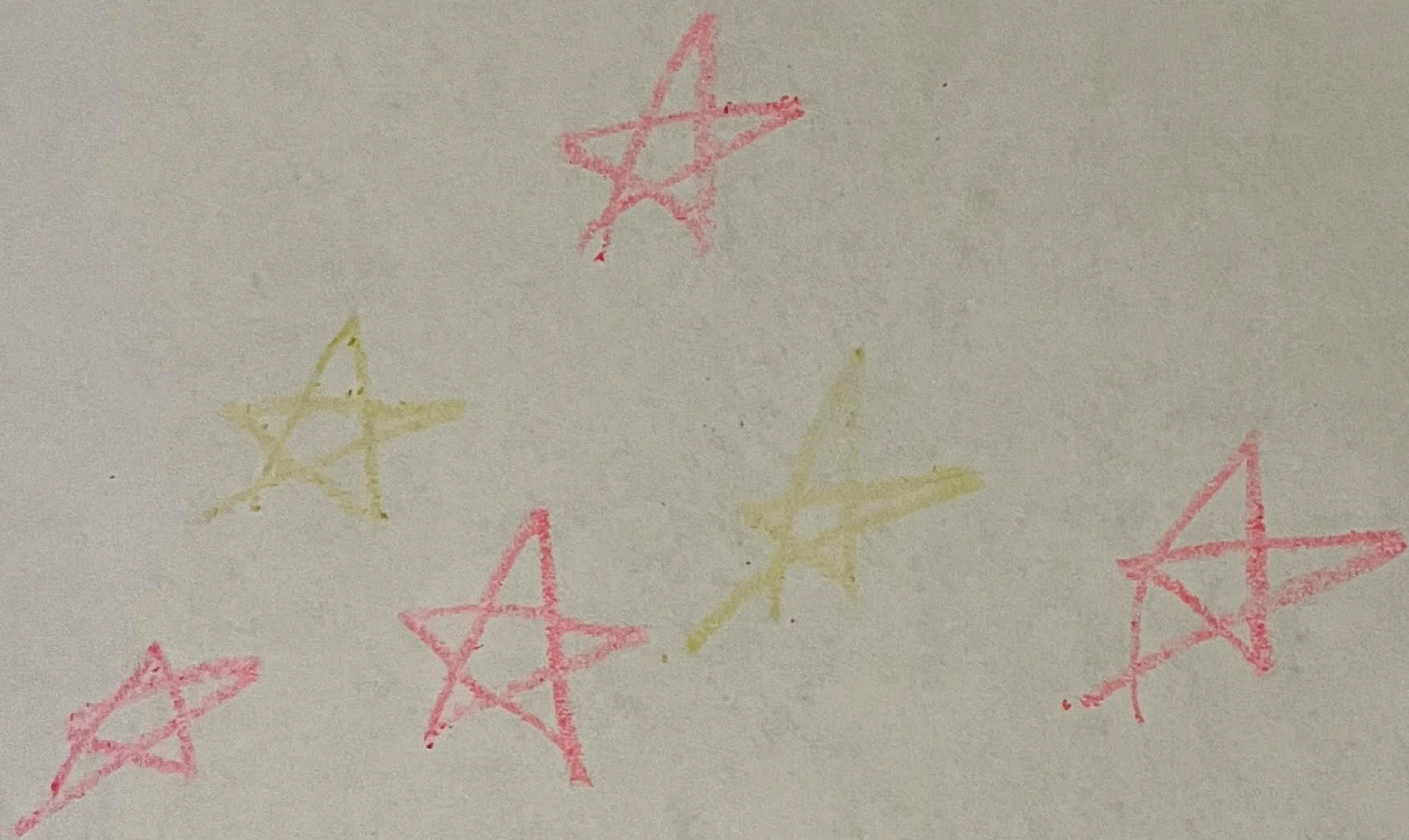
Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Alexander Tranquilino

Uplift Michigan Online Student

I love my school.  
I love my teacher.



I love my Cyber Charter school because:

I love when my teacher teach science.



By: Analysis

Age: 7

1st Grade Student  
Uplift Michigan Online School





Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Angelina Miscio. I am a 4th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because my parents decided.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is amazing and good because I get to have a second attempt on quizzes.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Angelina Miscio

Uplift Michigan Online Student

14660 Alfalfa Road  
Lachine, Michigan 49753

April 19, 2023

Good day ladies and gentlemen;

My name is April Cox and I am a parent and teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator and parent of school age children, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs. Many students and families have benefited from public cyber charter schools, including mine. I have worked in the public brick and mortar schools; I have seen students who cannot function in that setting. Cyber charter schools offer options to these students as well as all students and families. We need these options for education in today's world. Cyber charter schools serve all students across the state of Michigan, from all backgrounds and demographics, and they deserve equal access to quality education.

Cutting the budget of our school and other cyber charters is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools.

Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
April Cox

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Ariaahna Williams. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because Because make you sooo tired..

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is amazing because teachers are so kind and nice. And I love the work Its hard and fun I just loveeeee Uplift.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Ariaahna Williams

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Audrie Eby-Luedecking and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because you can't control distractions in-person, because you are surrounded by people, but when I am at home there is nobody that is distracting me from doing my best.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because my old school was shut down at the end of 11th grade. It was a hybrid school, so going to a normal highschool for my last year would've been a huge change and my grades would have gone way down. Going to an online school was less of a major change due to the fact that my old school was partially online, and this made my goals a lot more achievable.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. Younger students or students that came to the school after me wouldn't have the same experience and benefits I have had. The students that are already here would experience a huge change which could disrupt their learning, and new students coming in would have the disadvantage from the start.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Audrie Eby-Luedecking

I love my Cyber Charter school because: its online and i feel safe at home and i love my teachers and friends.



By: Bailey

Age:7

2nd Grade Student  
Uplift Michigan Online School

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Bladyn Beauchamp. I am a 4th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because it works out better for me.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is fun, exciting, and awesome because the teachers are all very kind and helpful.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Bladyn Beauchamp

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Governor Whitmer,

My name is Cat Boss and I am a Relationship Manager at Uplift Michigan Online School. I am writing to express my opposition to your proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As a staff member and parent, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs.

Many students and families have benefited from public cyber charter schools. Many of those students have made the choice to put their children in Cyber charter schools because of the poor quality of their local brick and mortar schools, because their students are facing bullying, and because of increased threat of violence in public schools. Low income families are in a situation where they cannot drive their students to another district so that they can attend a better school. There are cities within Michigan where schools have been closed down entirely, leaving the families with hard choices to make to provide education to their children. Cyber charter schools serve all students and deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to you making the right decision in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Catherine Boss, Relationship Manager at Uplift Michigan Online School

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Bowie and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because **it's a safe space for students.**

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because I was being bullied very badly, I was not comfortable at my old school so this is the best choice for me. I feel the most comfortable at uplift and it's helped me a lot so far. I've been doing very well grade wise and I'm being proud of myself.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. This could 100% make the education quality lower, meaning that we wouldn't be getting the things we need.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Bowie**



Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Bradan. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because covid.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is very good because I dont have to leave my house and not see my family .

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Bradan

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Brayden Borsos. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because It is calmer then in person school and no bullies. So i feel more okay at home..

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is we can do work anytime we want. because on Tuesday And Thursday we have vr classes which are fun and i meet new kids.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Brayden Borsos

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Bentley Budd and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because I can't go to a traditional school because of covid.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because It's a lot more flexible than a traditional school. It's a lot easier to do school when I want to.

In an online school you can learn much faster. Usually you have to wait for others to learn the same thing but you can keep learning. You also much comfortable to do school at home.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. The funding cut would result in more students in the live lessons that I attend, meaning that I could get less individual attention. My teachers would have more students and may not be able to provide as many one-to-one sessions when I need additional help. With less money coming to my school, I may not have access to technology tools that help me better understand what I'm learning.

I ask that you reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bentley Budd

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Travis Bumpers and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because **It's very amazing here at Uplift. Not only is the school amazing, but the staff as well. The staff here is very kind. They want us to succeed here. They want us to thrive in life. They're always helping us whenever they get the chance.**

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because my mother didn't want me getting covid. This was back in 2020, when covid was rampant and most of the people were dying because of it. And i also didn't want to get covid as well.

**They first thing about UMOS is the staff. Like I said, They're also willing to help me if I ever need it. They are also very kind, Kinder than most teachers. And the thing is I never have to leave my own home. It decreases the risk of me getting sick and I don't have to worry about having to rely on my mom taking me to school.(which i'm saying it saves us gas).**

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. **For Example, It degrades the quality of our education. There will be less 1 on1's that we have. There also will be teachers that will lose their job here over this as well. There will be less students having the opportunity to be taught here at uplift as well.**

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Travis Bumpers.**

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Erika Bushey; I am a certified Michigan educator and parent of two high school students. I chose education as a career because I believe in serving students and their families in our public education system. I graduated in 2008, a time when thousands of teachers were applying for one position. It was incredibly difficult to get an interview let alone a permanent position. What a different time we are living in now

Desperately hoping to begin teaching, I stumbled across a posting for a cyber charter school. I saw an opportunity to exercise choice in education and jumped into virtual teaching. I'm so glad I took the leap!

I work for the best cyber charter school in Michigan - Uplift Michigan Online School! Uplift serves close to 700 students, from Kindergarten to 12th grade, all over the state of Michigan. Like me, these families all chose an alternative route to quality education. These families are exercising their right to choose a school that best suits their student's educational and safety needs.

Sadly, UMOS students and staff are once again facing a proposed cut to our funding, simply because we are a cyber charter school. I ask *you*, are UMOS and other cyber students less than those who attend traditional public schools? Voting in favor of slashing cyber charter funds sends the direct message to these families that you do not view them worthy of equal educational funding.

Here are 5 reasons why you should consider sticking up for cyber charter schools in Michigan:

1. All kids are equal. Students should not be penalized for attending their school of choice. The dream of Proposal A was just realized last year, why attempt to undo this progress?
2. Quality education for all. Cyber charter schools provide quality education for students, especially in cases where traditional schools may not meet their needs.
3. Parental choice and flexibility matter. Parents have the right to choose the best educational option for their children.
4. Cyber charter schools serve a diverse student population. Our population includes many at-risk students and minority communities.
5. Negative impact on students. Funding cuts lead to layoffs, program cuts, and other negative impacts on student services. We need to ensure equal funding for ALL students.

This could go without mention, but... As traditional public schools continue to become less safe and more scrutinized, cyber charter schools will continue to be a viable option for families looking for quality education and the safety of their children. Please stand with cyber charter schools now, and in the future. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Hopeful for Equal Educational Funding,  
Brandi Cramer  
Teacher - Uplift Michigan Online School  
[brandi.cramer@uplift-mi.org](mailto:brandi.cramer@uplift-mi.org)

(586) 842-3768

I love my school

Because I  
like to read  
and do math.

Calvin Carson

Age 5

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Calex Edward Scott Ellis. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because I was struggling in school and classes were too big I was lost and nobody helped..

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is awesome and exciting because the school helps you all the time my teacher Mrs. Gillispe helps me and makes me feel like calex. they don't bully any. without uplift I would be a lost kid with no education in regular school. Please don't take our school money, you should watch how we do it at uplift.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Calex Edward Scott Ellis

Uplift Michigan Online Student



Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Giovanni and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because **I learn better when I can get help from any of my teachers most of the time, Also because I feel like online teachers actually care about the students and help us learn.**

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because **I was struggling to learn in an in-person school cause I would be tired of sitting in a plastic chair all day long with little to no breaks. Another reason is if I had any questions I would not want to ask them because I didn't want other people to know I didn't understand.**

**The reason I like Uplift is that I can have a 1 on 1 meeting with any of my teachers and they help me understand what ever I have a question on. Also, teachers are actually worried about the students, unlike an in-person teacher who only gets mad if you aren't doing good work.**

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. Because they have to pay for a lot of programs that we use to learn and without those programs we wont be able to learn is good.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Giovanni Cardenas**

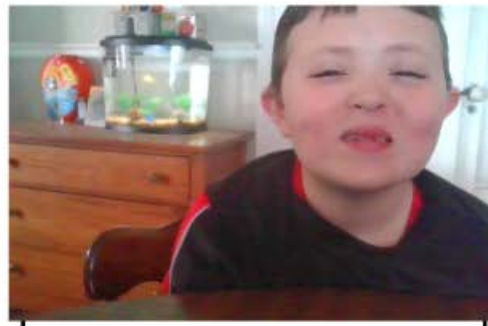
I love my Cyber Charter school because:

i love doing it with my  
mom and im safe.

By: Cass

1st Grade Student

Uplift Michigan Online School



Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Julian Castro and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because they reduce the chance of getting covid-19.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because I live with my great grandparents and they have a higher chance of getting covid. So I joined Uplift because of covid-19.

Things I like about Uplift are live lessons. The work. And the schedule.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. The funding cut would result in more students in the live lessons that I attend, meaning that I could get less individual attention. My teachers would have more students and may not be able to provide as many one-to-one sessions when I need additional help. With less money coming to my school, I may not have access to technology tools that help me better understand what I'm learning.

I ask that you reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Julian Castro**

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Cathrynn. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because idk.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is woderful because I get more sleep.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Cathrynn

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Chance. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because the teachers are nice and very educational.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is educational because of the teachers and students .

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Chance

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Chanse. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because covid.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is there's no bullies because there all nice.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Chanse

Uplift Michigan Online Student

April 20, 2023

Dear Legislator,

I am writing you as a concerned parent to express my opposition to your proposed 20% budget cut to cyber charter schools. I have seen firsthand what a great education these schools provide for students, including my son.

Cyber schools provide a great learning environment that allows students to learn without the distractions that they face in traditional schools. They also provide a safe place for those students that may not fit into the traditional school setting. These students are provided with the opportunity to succeed in their academics.

During COVID, my son like most students was learning virtually through the traditional school setting. What my husband and I learned during that time was that our son thrived with cyber schooling. While our son has always been a great student academically, his learning is so much more focused during cyber learning. The distractions and unnecessary behavior that happens in traditional school settings can be detrimental to many students' learning. With the unnecessary violence in the world today, my husband and I also feel secure in the safety that cyber learning offers to our son.

Currently, our son is dual enrolled in Montcalm Community College and working on his Business Degree while he is finishing his high school diploma. He is thriving at cyber learning, while pursuing his academic goals.

I believe that cutting the budget of cyber charter schools will leave many students without access to quality education. Cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to learn in an environment that suits their individual needs. Many students who have struggled in a traditional classroom setting have found success in cyber charter schools. Cutting funding to these schools will only limit the options available to these students and will deny them the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

I urge you to reconsider your proposed budget cut to cyber charter schools. Don't hinder these students educational opportunities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cara A. Waite

5437 1 Mile Road

Lakeview, MI 48850

989-818-0685

I love my Cyber Charter school because:

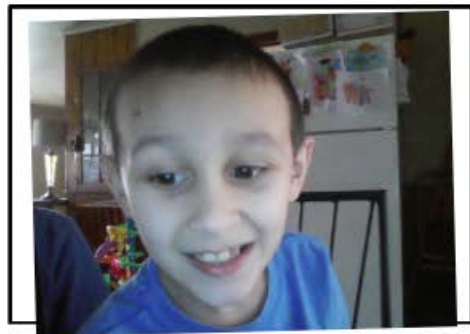
my teachers are nice and art class is fun. I get to stay home with my mom.

By: christopher thomas

Age: 6

1st Grade Student

Uplift Michigan Online School





To the Lawmakers of Michigan,

My name is Aidan and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am notably concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because UMOS provides me and many other students with a safe place to learn, and the tools and flexibility to do it.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because brick-and-mortar schools couldn't keep us safe. I joined UMOS back in the pandemic, back when just about everyone was convinced that COVID wasn't even real. My in-person school at the time believed the same, and it was only until the virus had made full landfall in the country and had started to take lives that they reluctantly moved everyone to an impromptu online schooling curriculum. Following that, I left the program and joined UMOS, because they weren't mentally unstable enough to encourage students to come back to in-person schooling in the middle of a blasted pandemic. Now that the pandemic has mostly moved on, those schools are still dangerous, especially to those who don't inherently fall into a high-ranking social clique of idiots. The frequency of excessive bullying and violence between students has only increased since I last went to a physical school, and now more than ever those bullies and inciters-of-violence have targets: people who don't fall into a specific category of "straight and white". People who are part of LGBTQ+ communities, members of ethnic or racial minority groups, those with mental disorders or other conditions, and even people who just don't fit in very well are all at a higher risk than ever of violence towards them and those they care about. And considering that the 20% of the budget you're trying to take from online schools probably isn't going to be used to combat issues like that effectively, you really don't have a viable reason to cut it from us.

Additionally, the amount of school shootings has also increased tenfold. Just in the past three months, there have been at least two or three major shootings that made national news, and claimed the lives of many innocent people. People that YOU are supposed to keep safe and healthy. And from my logical deduction, taking money from programs that can give students and parents alike a breath of relief, knowing that the chance of their child living to see another day has increased substantially, isn't going to mitigate those incidents.

UMOS has given me, my family, and so many others reassurance and confidence that their children will be safe and healthy while they're schooling. That they don't have to give their kid body armour to get a good education; that their child will be able to go back to school the next day, alive and well.

Online programs like UMOS have also helped many people come to terms with things like gender and sexual identity without facing excessive judgement or violence. People who have

questioned whether they fall into a different category or title than what they were born into are able to breathe freely and experiment a little more, because they won't be slammed against a wall or shoved into a locker for doing so.

Moving aside from worries of violence and fear of judgement/discrimination, online schools are also far more flexible than a standard, physical location. While you are required (and expected) to complete the assigned work efficiently and effectively, you are given far more leeway in how it should be done, and when it should be done. If you prefer to get one or two subjects out of the way before the others, UMOS gives you the ability to do exactly that. You can work on one subject per day, allowing for higher grades and better retention of applicable information. If you are forced to switch between all of your subjects in one day, it can limit the amount of information you actually remember, making most of the time spent in the class absolutely useless. It also allows students with an erratic schedule to complete the assigned work as they are able to, and not have to worry about receiving a lower grade for being a day late in submission. Many students have parents or guardians who lead busy lives, or are constantly on the move (such as stationed military personnel, or government operatives/officials), and as such can struggle to adhere to a standard in-person schooling schedule, especially in regards to completing assigned work. UMOS and other programs of it's nature can help to mitigate this problem, and help the student complete all the necessary assignments to the best of their ability.

Online programs also allow for students to have more individualised interactions with teachers and administrators. If a student is struggling in a specific subject, or is facing other problems, they can convey their concerns and receive help from teachers and other staff members notably easier, and with far less social anxiety, due to smaller class sizes and the integration of technology. In a standard, physical schooling environment, many students will fall behind in classes, or continue to face other problems, because of social anxiety caused by large class sizes, and the need to engage in direct, face-to-face interactions with teachers and staff.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. By cutting funds to UMOS and similar programs, many of those students will be denied access to needed technology and resources that are provided by the program, such as personal computers, stationary, books and documents, et cetera. They will also have to deal with larger class sizes, lack of qualified teachers and staff, a less coherent curriculum and assignments, and a generally lower quality of education. As one can assume, changes of this nature can be catastrophic to some and frustrating/inconvenient to others, which will in turn produce less successful students (which can also lead to a lower employment rate from the lack of qualified graduates, meaning the

economy also takes a major hit). Overall, it is extremely nonoptimal and inconvenient to cut funding from UMOS and similar online schooling programs.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like us can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cheers,

Aidan Cloutier

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Damian and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because they help with getting help.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because my mom's health was going down and I had to stay home and take care of her. It was also because I was getting bullied really badly. I was not getting any help from the school with understanding the work.

My favorite thing about Uplift is how kids don't need to be scared of getting help from the teachers.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Damian Cole

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Collin Achilli. I am a 4th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because i am very afraid of regular school. .

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is awesome. because I can do school even when my family goes to Tennessee to see my brother and sister.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Collin Achilli

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Colt. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because it is fun.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is amazing wonderful awesome because i get to use the vr and we get to play blooket.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Colt

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Faylinn Cornell and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because there is no pressure about surprise tests if there are any easy work times to get everything done and turn in work on time.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because... I joined UMOS to not have to deal with regular classroom struggles like having a difficult project partner, being randomly called on without the answer, and not having to deal with not being able to write down information because a teacher would erase it too fast. The teachers here at UMOS are kind and very helpful just from an email and the flexibility here for assignments, exams, or tests is great and really takes off stress that public school has.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. Cutting the funding would lower the quality of the education I'm currently getting and it would have a negative impact if that lowers in my opinion and I wouldn't be able to schedule as many 1 on 1's with teachers for help with certain assignments or quizzes.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Faylinn Cornell

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Natasha Cox and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because online schools provide me the comfort of being in my own home and I feel safe.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because my other school had a lot of bullying going on, and in the past, there were a lot of bomb threats. I didn't feel safe, and I struggled with wanting to go. At Uplift, I can work from my home where I always feel safe, I have my mom here to help me when I need help, and all the Uplift teachers are very supportive and helpful.

Uplift offers so much that I never thought a cyber school could offer. We can do our work from home or while camping! We can work at a pace that is best for us. We have clubs any of us can attend! We even do field trips. The teachers are amazing, and I can't imagine ever going back to a building for school.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. The funding cut would result in more students in the live lessons that I attend, meaning that I could get less individual attention. My teachers would have more students and may not be able to provide as many one-to-one sessions when I need additional help. With less money coming to my school, I may not have access to technology tools that help me better understand what I'm learning.

I ask that you reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Natasha Cox**



Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Erika Bushey; I am a certified Michigan educator and parent of two high school students. I chose education as a career because I believe in serving students and their families in our public education system. I graduated in 2008, a time when thousands of teachers were applying for one position. It was incredibly difficult to get an interview let alone a permanent position. What a different time we are living in now.

Desperately hoping to begin teaching, I stumbled across a posting for a cyber charter school. I saw an opportunity to exercise choice in education and jumped into virtual teaching. I'm so glad I took the leap!

I work for the best cyber charter school in Michigan - Uplift Michigan Online School! Uplift serves close to 700 students, from Kindergarten to 12th grade, all over the state of Michigan. Like me, these families all chose an alternative route to quality education. These families are exercising their right to choose a school that best suits their student's educational and safety needs.

Sadly, UMOS students and staff are once again facing a proposed cut to our funding, simply because we are a cyber charter school. I ask *you*, are UMOS and other cyber students less than those who attend traditional public schools? Voting in favor of slashing cyber charter funds sends the direct message to these families that you do not view them worthy of equal educational funding.

Here are 5 reasons why you should consider sticking up for cyber charter schools in Michigan:

1. All kids are equal. Students should not be penalized for attending their school of choice. The dream of Proposal A was just realized last year, why attempt to undo this progress?
2. Quality education for all. Cyber charter schools provide quality education for students, especially in cases where traditional schools may not meet their needs.
3. Parental choice and flexibility matter. Parents have the right to choose the best educational option for their children.
4. Cyber charter schools serve a diverse student population. Our population includes many at-risk students and minority communities.
5. Negative impact on students. Funding cuts lead to layoffs, program cuts, and other negative impacts on student services. We need to ensure equal funding for ALL students.

This could go without mention, but... As traditional public schools continue to become less safe and more scrutinized, cyber charter schools will continue to be a viable option for families looking for quality education and the safety of their children. Please stand with cyber charter schools now, and in the future. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Hopeful for Equal Educational Funding,  
Brandi Cramer  
Teacher - Uplift Michigan Online School  
[brandi.cramer@uplift-mi.org](mailto:brandi.cramer@uplift-mi.org)

(586) 842-3768

April 19, 2023

Good afternoon {{First}} {{Last}},

My name is Katherine Crane and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs. Many students and families, including mine, have benefited from public cyber charter schools.

Cyber charter schools serve all students and deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Sincerely A Passionate Cyber Educator and Parent,

Ms. Katherine Crane

***Ms. Katherine Crane***

katherine.crane@uplift-mi.org

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Deshawn. I am a 4th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because i like online school i want to friends.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is oh is so amazing because learning about math ELA is so fun.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Deshawn

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Ricky Durbin and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because I needed a school to join when Covid hit.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because of Covid. Uplift is a good school and all of the teachers are very nice and helpful. I really like the teachers.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. I joined this school because of covid and if it was not for covid I would not be here doing well.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ricky Durbin

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Makenna and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because it's harder for me to focus in person and online has a more flexible schedule.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because of COVID. I tried going back in person but it just wasn't for me so I went to Uplift. Being able to take a break from school and doing my work throughout the day instead all at once is really nice, especially with having a job. So being able to do my schoolwork anytime of the day helps me out a lot. Also when I first started online I went through the public school I was going to at the time and it was pretty hard to understand anything, and with Uplift it's way easier.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. For example our live lessons would be interrupted, and they help us communicate with our teachers when we don't understand something we are learning about in our lessons. It could also take away our field trips and things our teachers do to be able to meet with us and to also meet the other students. All in all it would give us a lower quality of education because of all the things we use the fundings for to help us learn.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Makenna Dyke

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Elijah. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because because physical school sucks.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is it is the best school I've attended because the teachers are better than all of the other school because the field trips are so fun.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Elijah

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Eliot. I am a 4th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because because we travel a lot.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is amazing because my teacher.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Eliot

Uplift Michigan Online Student



Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Elora. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because there are no bulllys.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is awesome because schoolwork.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Elora

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is emery. I am a 4th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because it is easier to go online than in person!.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is cool, amazing, and wonderful because its easy because it has easy quizzes and some easy math things.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

emery

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Good Morning

My name is Yesenia Diaz Mercado, and I am a staff member at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state. As a staff member, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs.

For some students, going to school meant being bullied, living in fear and shame but our school has been a helpful solution for many of our students when a case of bullying was ruining their school experience. We also have students that feel excessive pressure to perform well in school causing anxiety and being in a public cyber charter school has allowed family to be alongside the student to guide them through these feelings. Many students and families, including mine, have benefited from public cyber charter schools.

Cyber charter schools serve all students and deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Sincerely,

Yesenia Diaz Mercado

I love my Cyber Charter school because:

Because I like working and my mommy helping me.

By: Farrah

Age: 7

1st Grade Student

Uplift Michigan Online School

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is **Krystallynn Fowler** and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because **[provide your top reason or top two reasons for joining and thriving at Uplift].**

I joined uplift because I didn't want to deal with all the bullying that happens in public school as well as all the shootings that happen, I never want to go to school and never come out I want to get my egacatchion. Uplift is a great school and it has great teachers, I can always ask for help when I need it and I am never ignored by any of my teachers, Uplift is not only about learning but also about felling safe and felling like a family.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because... **[tell the story of what made you join UMOS in the first place]. [This should be a solid paragraph of 2-5 sentences. Discuss any struggles you might have had in a traditional classroom. Be sure to mention how UMOS has helped you overcome some of those challenges toward the end of the paragraph.]**

I wanted to join Uplift because I wanted to go to a school that had a flexible schedule, Uplift makes it easy for me to do my work and still get things done when I need which is good for someone like me that has a lot of different things that I would normally have to do after school. I have Anxiety and if I were to go to a public school I would be so anxious it would be harder for me to take any test, and I would freeze if a teacher ever called on me to present something in front of the class, at Uplift I can take a test without feeling anxious because of the people around me and I can also talk out loud to the class without freezing up from seeing all the faces looking at me, Uplift lets me give my all to schooling and participation in school.

**[Write a 3-5 sentence paragraph here describing what you enjoy about UMOS. This could include Live Lessons, your teachers, your fellow classmates, the flexibility it provides, the individualized attention, etc.]**

All of the above, I love uplift because of its live lessons because thats were I take a lot of my best notes, the teachers are really good at explaining things and working through the material with you. I love the teachers at Uplift because they are all good at what they do and they all will go the extra mile to help make sure you understand what you need to do. I love my classmates at Uplift because they are all nice and open to peoples differences and I would say that some of that is because of the positive feeling that Uplift teachers bring to class. I love the flexibility because as I said before I have a lot of things to do after school and I can work on them when I take a break so that I can just enjoy the rest of my day after school. And I love the individualized attention because it really helps me when I don't understand the material to be abul to work on it one-on-one with a teacher.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. The funding cut would result in more students in the live lessons that I attend, meaning that I could get less individual attention. My teachers would have more students and may not be able to provide as many one-to-one sessions when I need additional help. With less money coming to my school, I may not have access to technology tools that help me better understand what I'm learning.

I ask that you reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Krystallynn F**

I love my Cyber Charter school because:

it is fun

By:  
gg

Age: 7

1st Grade Student  
Uplift Michigan Online School

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Jessica Gillespie and I am a 5th grade teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs. I choose to teach for a virtual school because I know students can receive an exceptional education online. For some students, it is the only option. In class today my students and I all took time to write letters to you to tell you what we love about our school and why we choose to be here. Their reasons made me cry. They ranged from not feeling safe attending brick and mortar school, to students with crippling anxiety who were given a chance to be themselves here, to students with no transportation to and from their local school. The list goes on and on. My students deserve the same funding as every other student in Michigan. Parents who are terrified to send their children to school in fear that they will be shot before they graduate deserve an exceptional online option. We cannot provide that for families without adequate funding.

Here at Uplift class sizes are currently capped at 30. That means that I am able to dig into testing data and work with my students one on one or in small groups on the things each individual student needs. In addition to daily whole group lessons my students are able to reach out and ask for help and I am able to meet with them that same day. If I had 60 students, I would not be able to provide the same education to my students that I do now. The time and attention I am able to give my students one on one would not even be possible in a brick and mortar school. Without proper funding our class sizes would go up significantly. One of many reasons I am begging you not to cut our funding.

Cyber charter schools serve all students across the state of Michigan and they deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school and other cyber charters is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jessica Gillespie



Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is **Nevaya**. I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because I have more time extending to my day its very flexible and it should have they same funding as other schools.

**I like UMOS because in face to face school when i get home it was already 6 and i had to do homework after school and after im done its already done everyone's nice here and i can choose when i want to do my work i also felt awkward and face to face schools i don't feel awkward in cyber schools are a good fit for me.**

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. The funding cut would result in more students in the live lessons that I attend, meaning that I could get less individual attention. My teachers would have more students and may not be able to provide as many one-to-one sessions when I need additional help. With less money coming to my school, I may not have access to technology tools that help me better understand what I'm learning.

I ask that you reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Nevaya Gorte**

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jenifer Gould and I am a passionate high school social studies teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School. I chose to become a teacher because I truly wanted to make a difference in the lives of students, especially in the most underserved communities. Since I began my teaching career I have always taught for Title I schools and have loved every minute.

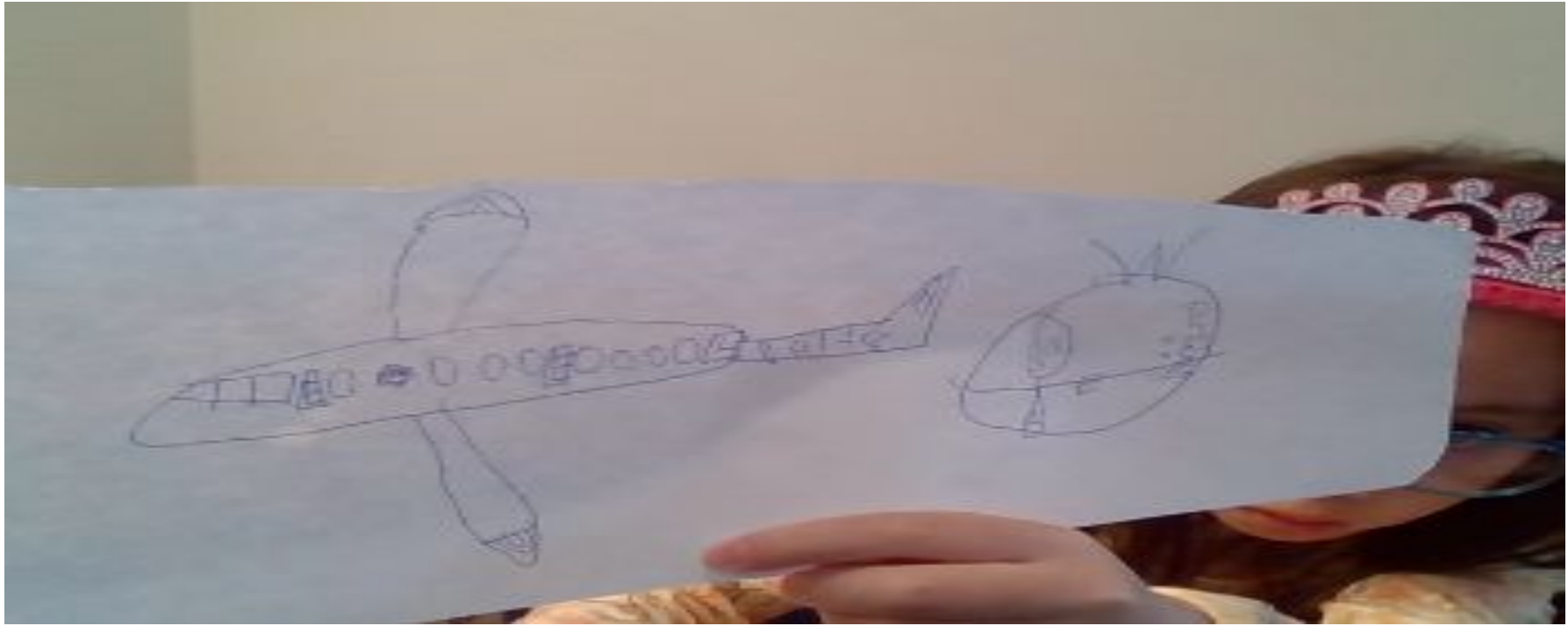
Uplift Michigan Online School is a cyber charter school that is also Title I-serving the great state of Michigan's most vulnerable populations. We have students who are homeless, are part of the LGBTQ+ community, 30% who have IEPs, and many students who are plagued with mental health issues. Our families chose to enroll their students with us and have entrusted us with their child's education and in turn we as educators are honored that they chose us and promise to do all we can do to provide their children with the best education we can. These families have exercised their right to choose which educational model will best serve their students, something that no one else can decide.

Unfortunately, UMOS students, families, and staff are facing a proposed state funding cut, simply because we are a virtual charter school. *I am asking you, if you chose to send your child to a virtual charter school because you believed it was in their best interest, how would you feel if the state were to cut 20% of that school's funding, yet increase funding for other charter schools and all public schools?* Voting to cut funding to schools like ours, sends a direct message to the underserved communities of Michigan, including the LGBTQ+ community, that their education isn't as important as the student who is going to school in person and that they are not worthy of equal funding. It also sends a message to teachers, that teachers who continued to be underpaid, and who are serving in these areas are not as valuable as teachers who are teaching in person.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Jen Gould

I love my Cyber Charter school because: I can go any where in the world.



By: Haddi Erfourth.

7

Age:

2nd Grade Student  
Uplift Michigan Online School

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Hadley Petzke. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because during covid it was not safe for me to go to in person school so i went to uplift and I loved it so much that I stayed.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is caring and amazing because the teachers are so amazing and I get to meet so many new people during social meetings.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Hadley Petzke

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Tristan and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because nice teachers and the support I get.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because, When the pandemic started, that was the last day I ever went to in-Person school, because of that I thought that I should go to an online school. After a few minutes of searching, I came across Uplift and I thought it would be a nice school, turns out it's an amazing school. What I like about UMOS is that the teachers are nice, they help me out whenever I need it, the classmates too, and made a few friends too, the classes aren't that hard, I don't have to get the assignment done right then and there, and I have up until 12 am to get it done.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. The funding cut would result in more students in the live lessons that I attend, meaning that I could get less individual attention. My teachers would have more students and may not be able to provide as many one-to-one sessions when I need additional help. With less money coming to my school, I may not have access to technology tools that help me better understand what I'm learning.

I ask that you reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Tristan Hale**

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Tristan and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because nice teachers and the support I get.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because, When the pandemic started, that was the last day I ever went to in-Person school, because of that I thought that I should go to an online school. After a few minutes of searching, I came across Uplift and I thought it would be a nice school, turns out it's an amazing school. What I like about UMOS is that the teachers are nice, they help me out whenever I need it, the classmates too, and made a few friends too, the classes aren't that hard, I don't have to get the assignment done right then and there, and I have up until 12 am to get it done.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. The funding cut would result in more students in the live lessons that I attend, meaning that I could get less individual attention. My teachers would have more students and may not be able to provide as many one-to-one sessions when I need additional help. With less money coming to my school, I may not have access to technology tools that help me better understand what I'm learning.

I ask that you reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Tristan Hale**

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Dylan and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because these online classes are easier and more efficient and that the student will have more time to work on schoolwork.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because... **I have a special diet that prevents me from attending high school and also that my parents are worried that I would not fit in a public high school. This virtual school really helps me and I sometimes meet with other kids that have the same problems as me. The online aspect of this school really helps me take my time in classes and also helps me relax.**

**What I like about my virtual school is that all of my teachers are really supportive and understanding of my situations. I also like that I have fun sessions like high school social lunch and high school friday fun. Some of the classes I take are somewhat enjoyable like Computer Basics and Culinary Arts.**

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. **Some ways that the funding could impact education would be time management, more live lessons, less 1:1s, and more help from teachers.**

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Dylan Harthen**

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Autumn Hinton and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because It is easier for me to work at home because there is no Distractions

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Autumn hinton



Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Isaac and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because Uplift is the only school that is flexible enough for my needs.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because... Traditional schooling was very difficult for my family and me. As a child, attending school was difficult due to the struggles of the inflexible and strict nature of the traditional school system. I was in and out of the court system due to not attending, but now, with online school, I can finally live without the fear or stress of truancy.

Online schooling provides a more flexible alternative to traditional schooling. It requires self-discipline and independence. The independence is what I enjoy most about taking online school. Instead of being in a classroom with twenty other students, I can have peace and tranquility in my own room where I can go at my own pace.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. A 20% funding cut may directly impact my quality of education. I began attending online classes before the Corona Virus outbreak, it would certainly feel pretty bad if this school lost its funding. Online schooling is a necessary alternative to traditional schooling. Uplift Academy has given me many opportunities to express myself both academically and creatively. Having access to a wide variety of AP classes, one-on-one lessons, and skilled staff is what makes these online classes possible to run.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Isaac Dietrich

# "The Bad School"

Have you ever went to a bad school? Well if you did you would know what I am about to say. At my old school, people would pick on me. They would say I was Covid and I wanted to slap them! But I knew it was wrong to do. So instead I said I'm not Covid. I was upset but I learned patience. Now I have a new school named Uplift! At Uplift kids are nice to me and they want to be my friend. I love my new school!

Alivia

3rd grade

Good morning,

My name is Katherine Impellizzeri and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs.

Many students and families, including mine, have benefited from public cyber charter schools. Cyber charter schools serve all students and deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Katherine Impellizzeri

I love my Cyber Charter school because:

I like my  
teachers.



By: Isaiah Age: 6

1st Grade Student  
Uplift Michigan Online School

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Jefferson Matthews and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs.

Many students and families have benefited from public cyber charter schools. Cyber charter schools serve all students and deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice.

I have taught students who have battled daily health issues who are unable to attend school in-person because of routine health treatments and reoccurring medical episodes. I have taught students with behavioral challenges related to Autism Spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injuries, ADD, ADHD, and ODD whose parents chose Uplift because in-person school was not working for their child.

With this bill, the legislature - the people we are elected to represent all of us - are essentially saying that they value the education of students attending in-person more than students who attend online. Now imagine saying that to a parent who attends school online and being able look them in the eyes.

I also believe that within a year of the proposed funding cut being put into effect it will be reversed by the Michigan Supreme Court because, in my opinion, it violates the Equal Protection clause in the Michigan and U.S. Constitution. Why waste millions of dollars of taxpayer money passing a law that will not be upheld in the courts?

I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location.

You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jefferson Matthews  
Uplift Michigan Online School  
[jefferson.matthews@uplift-mi.org](mailto:jefferson.matthews@uplift-mi.org)  
810-360-2588

I love my Cyber Charter school because: helping people

By: Jacob

Age: 8

2nd Grade Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Jacob kline. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because i learn more and it helps me to learn good.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is the best school ever because of learning.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Jacob kline

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Jakob Hinton and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because, Some students can't afford computers due to low budgets and not having much money. Uplift provides us with very good working computers and provides us with headphones which can get pricey. Also uplift can help students with getting internet providers as well. Uplift also puts together field trips to make us feel in more of a traditional feel of school. This budget cut could really hurt the cyber students and the school.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because... **It works best for me and my family in the current situation that we are in. It also allows me to have my own time and my own pace while being at home spending time with family. I also gain more sleep because of the flexible time schedules of the meets that uplift provides. My mental health and grades have completely skyrocketed to a new level ever since joining uplift. The budget cut could really hurt how the school runs.**

**I enjoy the time flexibility the most and how patient the teachers and advisors are with the students. We aren't getting a huge amount of assignments so that we are on time and doing things at a good pace.**

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. **This would effect my education by making it difficult for the teachers to get more pay so that they are able to keep affording supplies and internet to have a smooth connection with the students. Being able to get help from any teacher all day is very important to us cyber students. Cutting the budget 20 percent is going to really hurt the school board and the way things are ran.**

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Jakob Hinton**



I love my Cyber Charter school because:



By: Ja'Maria

1st Grade Student

Uplift Michigan Online School



I love my Cyber Charter school because:

i love too go scool



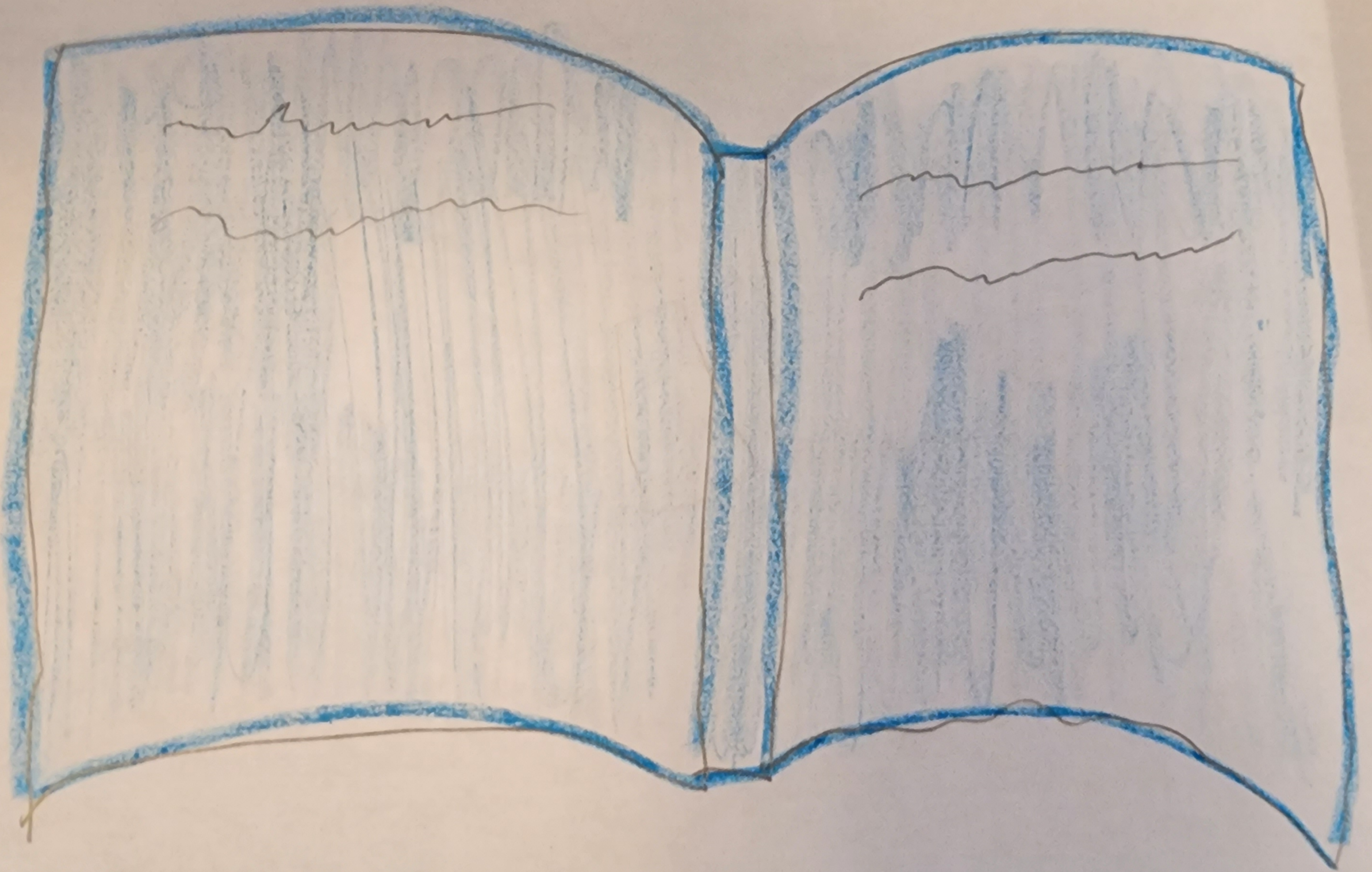
By: JaNae Morgan

Age: 7

1st Grade Student  
Uplift Michigan Online School



I love my school.



Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Janiz Crespo and I am an NBCC and Michigan State certified School Counselor working at Uplift Michigan Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my strong support for cyber charter schools and to urge you to oppose the governor's proposed 20% budget cut to cyber charter schools. I believe that cyber charter schools offer a unique opportunity for students to learn in a safe and supportive environment, and that they can be particularly beneficial for students of low socio-economic status and disadvantaged students.

One of the key benefits of cyber charter schools is that they allow students to learn from home and work at their own pace. This flexibility can be especially helpful for students who may have difficulty learning in a traditional classroom setting, such as those with learning disabilities or mental health concerns. Studies have shown that students in cyber charter schools tend to perform better academically than their peers in brick and mortar schools, and that they are more likely to graduate on time.

In addition, cyber charter schools are often a lifeline for students who may not have access to the same educational opportunities as their more affluent peers. For example, students in rural areas may have difficulty accessing quality educational programs, and cyber charter schools can help to bridge this gap. Likewise, students from low-income families may not have access to the same resources as their more affluent peers, and cyber charter schools can offer a more level playing field.

Moreover, attending a brick and mortar school comes with its own set of dangers, including increased rates of bullying and the risk of school shootings. Cyber charter schools provide a safer environment for students to learn and grow, free from the distractions and potential dangers of a traditional classroom setting.

In conclusion, I urge you to support cyber charter schools and to oppose the governor's proposed budget cut. Cyber charter schools offer a valuable educational alternative for students who may not thrive in a traditional classroom setting, and they provide a safe and supportive environment for students to learn and grow. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Janiz Crespo  
NBCC Certified School Counselor

Kathryn Jones  
1115 N. Magnolia Ave  
Lansing MI 48912

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Emily Dievendorf  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Dievendorf:

My name is Kathryn Jones and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state. I have worked in the cyber charter space for a full decade and in that time I have seen online schools provide unique opportunities for students who needed an option that was not available via other local programs.

I have seen students with severe medical needs who can't leave the house, or worse spend much of their life in the hospital complete their high school degree and graduate. I've witnessed students who qualify under the McKinney Vento Act, in unstable housing, maintain consistent grades while participating online, one of them graduating with high marks and getting accepted to a pre-med program. Online education supports professional athletes and dancers, allowing them to pursue their dreams. There are a multitude of reasons why parents and students choose a cyber school in Michigan, and we are proud to be here for them.

Michigan has been a leader in providing parental choice in education. In reducing funding to cyber charters, you are sending the message that a parents choice isn't valid. You are utilizing the budget to say that not all students are valued the same. You are discriminating against families that firmly believe cyber charters are the best choice for them.

I urge you to reverse this cut in the final budget so that you can send the right message to Michigan families: all students are valued AND all parents deserve to choose what's best for their child.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Jones



Kathryn Jones  
1115 N. Magnolia Ave  
Lansing MI 48912

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Sam Singh  
Post Office Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Senator Singh:

My name is Kathryn Jones and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state. I have worked in the cyber charter space for a full decade and in that time I have seen online schools provide unique opportunities for students who needed an option that was not available via other local programs.

I have seen students with severe medical needs who can't leave the house, or worse spend much of their life in the hospital complete their high school degree and graduate. I've witnessed students who qualify under the McKinney Vento Act, in unstable housing, maintain consistent grades while participating online, one of them graduating with high marks and getting accepted to a pre-med program. Online education supports professional athletes and dancers, allowing them to pursue their dreams. There are a multitude of reasons why parents and students choose a cyber school in Michigan, and we are proud to be here for them.

Michigan has been a leader in providing parental choice in education. In reducing funding to cyber charters, you are sending the message that a parents choice isn't valid. You are utilizing the budget to say that not all students are valued the same. You are discriminating against families that firmly believe cyber charters are the best choice for them.

I urge you to reverse this cut in the final budget so that you can send the right message to Michigan families: all students are valued AND all parents deserve to choose what's best for their child.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Jones





Kathryn Jones  
1115 N. Magnolia Ave  
Lansing MI 48912

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer, Governor of Michigan  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

My name is Kathryn Jones and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state. I have worked in the cyber charter space for a full decade and in that time I have seen online schools provide unique opportunities for students who needed an option that was not available via other local programs.

I have seen students with severe medical needs who can't leave the house, or worse spend much of their life in the hospital complete their high school degree and graduate. I've witnessed students who qualify under the McKinney Vento Act, in unstable housing, maintain consistent grades while participating online, one of them graduating with high marks and getting accepted to a pre-med program. Online education supports professional athletes and dancers, allowing them to pursue their dreams. There are a multitude of reasons why parents and students choose a cyber school in Michigan, and we are proud to be here for them.

Michigan has been a leader in providing parental choice in education. In reducing funding to cyber charters, you are sending the message that a parents choice isn't valid. You are utilizing the budget to say that not all students are valued the same. You are discriminating against families that firmly believe cyber charters are the best choice for them.

I urge you to reverse this cut in the final budget so that you can send the right message to Michigan families: all students are valued AND all parents deserve to choose what's best for their child.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Jones



Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Cayden Jones and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because I chose to attend a cyber/online school because I prefer to do work on my own and at my own

pace and I honestly have gotten to understand more while doing online less distraction and I can go at my own pace

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. Teachers could quit and we could be forced to go back to in-person learning. I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cayden Jones

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Karma Roth. I am a 4th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because I am autistic and it helps me learn better..

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is wonderful because I can learn without anxiety.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Karma Roth

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is karme. I am a 4th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because Because the rest of the homes close wasn't doing homeschool tomorrow they were doing in person.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is great because Because I can learn here like I learned in regular school all.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

karme

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Kayla p. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because Because it is fun and safe..

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is a good school for any kid because you can work at your own pace..

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Kayla p

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Kendra. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because because of covid and me and my brother both got bullied.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is my teacher help me get my grades up when im struggling because the techers are really sweet and alway help you if its needed.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Kendra

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Makayla Ketzal and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because you can still learn and access all of the content you need but you can do it in a comfortable space with less stress. In person can be distracting for some students and not offer the support they need, but with online they can feel more supported by teachers and less distracted.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because after being online for 2 years due to Covid I didn't want to go back in person. I was really struggling with Anxiety to the point where I knew I couldn't go back. Being in person felt uncomfortable and distracting. Online I am able to learn in a comfortable environment and feel supported by my teachers.

I enjoy UMOS because I am able to learn in a comfortable environment and be supported by my teachers. I am able to communicate with fellow classmates through live lessons, Social lunch, in person field trips and other clubs they provide, have flexibility in my schedule and have one on one meetings with my teachers when necessary.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. This could lead to less one on ones with teachers, less live lessons, less clubs and No more opportunities for in person field trips. All of which are very important things to me and other online students.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Makayla Ketzal



Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Kiara. I am a 4th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because When I was going in person I was bullied. .

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is an amazing wonderful and awesome school! I get the extra help I need. because I get the extra help I need for math and reading. I learn at my own pace and do not get bullied. Teachers are awesome and get one-on-one help that I never got in person.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Kiara

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is klaire. I am a 4th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because my famle travels.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is awesome because .

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

klaire

Uplift Michigan Online Student

I love my Cyber Charter school because:it  
maks me smart and it is so lovely and its  
fun to lone

By: korey Goodall

Age:8

2nd Grade Student  
Uplift Michigan Online School

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Lindsey Bellefeuil and I am the Special Education Administrative Assistant at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an online school employee, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs. Many students and families have benefited from public cyber charter schools since they feel safe at home and connect deeper with the teachers and staff.

Cyber charter schools serve all students across the state of Michigan and they deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school and other cyber charters is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Bellefeuil

My name is Lance Bestland and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs.

Many students and families, including mine, have benefited from public cyber charter schools. Cyber charter schools serve all students and deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that all students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the best way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Lance Bestland

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Latif pierce. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because I have anger issues and being in an online school makes me feel calmer and happier. .

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is astounding because we get to use a VR set for social studies and science. I love it.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Latif pierce

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Zachary Lawson and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because of the fact that in person is harder for certain students. Myself included, I used to have a huge problem with adhd in brick and mortar because I had all these other distractions around me. I used to have a very bad time my schedule and it messed up my whole life. With online school I don't have to worry about all the other distractions because there are almost none. As well as my schedule is flexible. I get more choice and freedom with online that I never got with brick and mortar.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. As an online school we need a little bit more things then brick and mortar. Such as computers and software. And now that were starting some vr projects we need headsets for our students. I can tell you that a vr class is not a need but I will tell you what. My brother every time he gets put on his headset and explore each thing. He was telling me about how he got to go to the moon and ride on a spaceship. This funding cut would eliminate most of these possibilities and eliminate some of the choice that students love about online school.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Zachary Lawson**

My name is Bre Anderson and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs.

Many students and families have benefited from public cyber charter schools. At Uplift we are able to support students that want to continue schooling but have life threatening allergies that need to be at home, students going through cancer treatment, students who have been bullied so badly they can't make themselves step back into a school, students that have physical disabilities that need the comfort of their home to learn, students with other disabilities that being home allows them more access to accommodations, students that are pursuing careers in acting or Olympic sports that need to be able to school away from home, students that do not feel safe walking to their local school or in their local school, students that do not have access to schools in their rural locations, and many more beautiful and unique situations where students still deserve the opportunity to obtain a quality public school education in Michigan.

Online teachers worked hard before covid, during covid, and continue to do so now. We were able to continue to provide our students with an uninterrupted education during covid and we were on board helping brick and mortar public school teachers learn how to teach online. We continue to collaborate with other virtual public schools and virtual public charters to help all students see success. Our jobs and schools are not less, they are just in a different setting, a setting that works for many of the families in the districts you were elected to represent.

I chose to be a virtual teacher over a decade ago because I saw the need it fulfilled for many Public Education Students in Michigan. The work we are doing at Uplift is beneficial, quality, and needed. We work to follow all the State Guidelines including teaching state standards and doing State testing. We attend Professional development alongside other teachers from brick-and-mortar schools like when we went to MACUL in Detroit this year. We hold field trips and send supplies to students so that ALL students are able to school from home and not be shorthanded. I have stayed on as a virtual teacher for over a decade now because I love it. It has value. It is a unique way to school that in the end is no different than driving down the road to school except for it takes place in their homes. It creates a feeling of family and relationships are strong between teachers, students, parents, and staff.

Cyber charter schools serve all students and deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bre Anderson

Virtual Elementary Teacher (10 years)



Hello,

My name is Emma Baker and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs.

Many students and families, including mine, have benefited from public cyber charter schools.

Cyber charter schools serve all students and deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Emma Baker

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Leyna. I am a 4th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because I have really nice teachers I made new friends. I really don't want to go to in person school..

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is amazing because I have so many good teachers.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Leyna

Uplift Michigan Online Student

I love my Cyber Charter school because:

I'm shy and my school makes me feel more comfortable.

Meeting people from all over Michigan is cool because I get to learn about other places.

I learned about prodigy and epic books.

By: Liam Hile

Age:8

2nd Grade Student

Uplift Michigan Online School

I love my Cyber Charter school because:

i love art class



By: Lily

1st Grade Student

Uplift Michigan Online School

Age: 8



Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Lorelei Elsbeth Brigham. I am a 4th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because when covid hit it was scary..

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is my school is a wonderful place to learn because i love my school because it is simple and awesome and i love it so much.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Lorelei Elsbeth Brigham

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Jessica Lucker and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because this school has helped me become a better student I can focus and be more productive in online school than in the in-person school I am learning more and it's more accessible in online school going at my own pace.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because Covid was happening at the time and I really was struggling to learn anything at my school before UMOS. I started looking up schools online and I found the best one for me and talked my mom into letting me join. It's been great since I feel like I have strived to be the best student I can be. I really struggle to concentrate in a traditional classroom and I feel that being with UMOS has really helped me a lot with that.

It was a great choice to join UMOS. I feel welcomed and comfortable. The teachers are all great. They make sure you know they are proud of you. They are open and accepting. They try to help you as fast as they can if you have a problem. The students are great too when they need help. They can also help you. I love how flexible this program is because people have jobs or they might be taking care of someone like siblings or grandparents. Like me, I take care of my grandma full-time. I take her to her appointments and help her whenever she needs help. That is why I love this school. Not only are you getting a great education, but you also have the flexibility to work a job or watch a sibling. Another great thing about this school is you are not trapped in a building for 8 hours you can go to the bathroom when you want.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. If there is a 20% funding cut I think that would impact my education and my peer's education by making the quality of our education low. Also, the live lessons would be bigger. It's harder to focus when there are many more people in the live lesson. This funding cut would take away more 1:1 with teachers for kids that need help.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Lucker

**[Your Name]**

April 20, 2023

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

I am writing to you today to express my concern with the proposed 20% reduction in per pupil funding for cyber charter schools contained within the upcoming education budget. I am an instructional coach and part of the leadership team here at Uplift Michigan Online School and have been a teacher or on the leadership team here since our school was formed during the 2018-2019 school year. As an educator, I strongly believe all students, regardless of where they attend school and the format with which they engage in school, deserve equal funding from the state. I strongly encourage you to support equitable funding for equitable learning experiences for ALL of our students across our state.

Not only is this cut discrimination against families that choose cyber charter schools, but the argument that cyber schools do not have the same expenses as traditional schools is quite weak. While it is true we don't have building or food costs associated with running our school, we do incur additional expenses that traditional schools do not such as the need to proctor state tests off site. We must pay for staff to travel to locations close to where students reside and for these testing sites. I am sure you can determine that the cost of this is a significant part of our school budget. Moreover, cyber schools are not entitled to local millages and bonds that bolster the funding for traditional schools and their districts. In essence, cyber schools are already at a disadvantage and this action would only further the divide.

We have about 50 staff members here at Uplift, including myself. As I'm sure you are aware, we are experiencing a teacher shortage. Cutting our funding will significantly decrease our ability to offer our staff incentives to join and stay on our team. Parents and students alike continue to choose cyber schools as an option for their education. We need appropriate staffing and teachers who are experienced in virtual education to be able to educate our students. Less funding means less teachers and burnt out teachers who are given increased caseloads of students.

The families that choose cyber schools matter. Their children deserve an education that is funded equitably to the education that they would get within their local school district. There are many reasons why our students choose not to attend their local school. These reasons range from bullying, the need to accelerate ahead, the need for more 1:1 intervention, and more. We would love to have you come into a virtual class session to see what we do. Our staff works hard to ensure that our students get what they need to be successful. In order to help us help our students, we need your help. Vote against this 20% funding reduction proposal.

Yours in Education,  
Dayna Lundberg  
Instructional Coach/Lead Teacher



April 17, 2023

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

I am writing to you today to express my views on the Governor's proposed 20% reduction in per pupil funding for cyber schools contained within the upcoming education budget. I am an instructional coach and part of the leadership team here at Uplift Michigan Online School and have been a teacher or on the leadership team here since our school was formed during the 2018-2019 school year. As an educator, I strongly believe all students, regardless of where they attend school and the format with which they engage in school, deserve equal funding from the state. I strongly encourage you to support equitable funding for equitable learning experiences for ALL of our students across our state.

The primary argument that I have heard with regards to cutting funding specifically for cyber schools is that they do not have the same expenses as traditional schools, such as transportation and food service needs. While this is true, we do incur additional expenses that traditional schools do not such as the need to proctor state tests off site. We must pay for staff to travel to locations close to where students reside and for these testing sites. Moreover, cyber schools are not entitled to local millages and bonds that bolster the funding for traditional schools and their districts. In essence, cyber schools are already at a disadvantage and this action would only further the divide.

We have about 50 staff members here at Uplift, including myself. As I'm sure you are aware, we are experiencing a teacher shortage. Cutting our funding will significantly decrease our ability to offer our staff incentives to join and stay on our team. Parents and students alike continue to choose cyber schools as an option for their education. We need appropriate staffing and teachers who are experienced in virtual education to be able to educate our students. Less funding means less teachers and burnt out teachers who are given increased caseloads of students.

The bottom line is that the families that choose cyber schools matter. Their children deserve an education that is funded equitably to the education that they would get within their local school district. There are many reasons why our students choose not to attend their local school. These reasons range from bullying, the need to accelerate ahead, the need for more 1:1 intervention, and more. We would love to have you come into a virtual class session to see what we do. Our staff works hard to ensure that our students get what they need to be successful. In order to help us help our students, we need your help. Vote against this 20% funding reduction proposal.

Yours in Education,  
Michael Bonkoski  
Instructional Coach/Lead Teacher  
Uplift Michigan Online School  
[michael.bonkoski@uplift-mi.org](mailto:michael.bonkoski@uplift-mi.org)  
(586) 782-6336

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Maliah Carroll. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because I attend an online school because of the schedule from in person..

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is spectacular because the schedule is easier for me.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Maliah Carroll

Uplift Michigan Online Student

I love my Cyber Charter school because:

I love staying at home with my mom and learning with my mom and my teachers. My teachers and my friends make me smile.

I love being able to take breaks when I need to, it helps with my focus.

By: Malija

Age: 6

1st Grade Student  
Uplift Michigan Online School



Hello,

My name is Katie Matosz and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs.

After working in a traditional brick and mortar setting for many years prior, I have witnessed the positive impact that our cyber charter school has had on students, families and staff. If you were to witness this impact first hand, I guarantee that you would shed a tear or two.

Cyber charter schools serve all students and deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

If you think about it, our students may one day be the college professors who educate our future Michigan lawmakers. It's just a shame to think that the education and wellbeing of our students will be jeopardized if our funding is cut. I really can't even express the magnitude of these ramifications.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Katie Matosz

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Maurice. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because bc my dad put me on here.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is fun because it's fun.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Maurice

Uplift Michigan Online Student

I Love School because

I want to read

I love my Cyber Charter school because:

I love Science and Art



By: Mercedes

Age:7

2nd Grade Student  
Uplift Michigan Online School

I love my Cyber Charter school because:

i can work on my own  
pace

By: micah hauser

Age: 6

1st Grade Student

Uplift Michigan Online School



Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Michael VanScoy. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because I don't like getting up super early.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is good because I get to do VR.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Michael VanScoy

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Naomi Monroe and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because I have social anxiety and I can not handle in-person school due to COVID my family did not want me to go to school and risk getting COVID.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because I would have constant anxiety attacks when I went to in-person school. I would have to leave the classroom, be late to class, skip class, or just not show up to school at all. I was failing most of my classes and my mom was getting calls from my school. It got to the point where my mom had to pull me out of school during the last semester and put me online, where I got all of my grades up and started passing all of my classes.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. This funding cut could make it harder for the students who need help in a class to get a 1 on 1 with their teachers. Whole group live lessons will be more crowded which will make it harder for our teacher to address all of the problems the students are having in their classes.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Naomi Monroe

My name is Noelle Cromwell and I am a kindergarten teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs. Many students and families, including mine, have benefited from public cyber charter schools. Cyber charter schools serve all students and deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice.

I have been a virtual educator for 9 years. During this time I have had the privilege to serve many students who have not only benefited from their online education but THRIVED. For example but not limited to students with health issues, behavioral issues, students who were bullied, have come to online schools like Uplift because their previous brick and mortar school was not meeting their needs. Uplift has brought them the resources, teachers, and friends that they needed to get a strong education.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location.

You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Noelle Cromwell

I love my Cyber Charter school because:

It is better ✓

By: NASH

Age: 8

1st Grade Student  
Uplift Michigan Online School

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Noah Hinton. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because of covid .

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is this school is amazing its so cool that we even use vrs and go to cool places like the moon and we learn about so much because we do the coolest stuff and the teachers are not strict and they still have us learn so much stuff if im stuck on something my teacher comes and helps me .

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Noah Hinton

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Noah.L.Connor. I am a 4th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because I get more free time and can do it when i want..

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is fun because Its UPLIFTING.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Noah.L.Connor

Uplift Michigan Online Student

I love my Cyber Charter school because:

It's fun and you get to  
meet so many new people



Age: 6

By: olivia

1st Grade Student  
Uplift Michigan Online School



Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Bailey Owens and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because in person schools are becoming more unsafe and harder to learn. I believe that having a choice makes it easier for students to learn in the comfort and safety of their homes.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because when covid first hit I was living with my grandma that raised me; taking care of her when she became ill during this time my grades had went down and when she passed I didn't care about school at all, when I started trying to get my life together I found myself struggling and not seeing a future at all. But when I started attending uplift they set up a meeting for me with my counselor and told me what I could do to pass on time with all my classmates they make one on one contact easier and even though my grades aren't all A's I now know that I will be graduating by summer of next year and even though my grandma passed I know she is thankful and proud that uplift got me through my rough patch and understood my grief.

Uplift makes sure all students are on track and in the same day response not only do they provide help and check ins but when you are doing great or even maybe they notice a small decline in your work they encourage you. Just today I was a bit stressed about my work seeing that I'm now looking for a job and learning how to drive and I got an email from one of my teachers stating as followed "Here is a quick shoutout to Bailey for their hard work in HS Health Group 2 Presently, you are passing the class with a 66.5.

We are halfway through the semester, and I wanted to let you know your hard work is being noticed, and I'm **proud of you**. So please keep doing what you are doing and finish the semester strong.

Have a wonderful day!

-Mrs. S."

You will never know what is going on in someone's life but uplift takes time out of their day to check on you and let you know you are okay and can pass. After I read this email I felt much better and got work done with a lot less rushing and stress.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. The funding cut would result in



more students in the live lessons that I attend, meaning that I could get less individual attention. My teachers would have more students and may not be able to provide as many one-to-one sessions when I need additional help. With less money coming to my school, I may not have access to technology tools that help me better understand what I'm learning.

I ask that you reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bailey Owens

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Nathan Pardy and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because they allow me flexibility. And a more curated learning experience, that is reliable, and challenging.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because of covid, and the quarantine. But I have chosen to remain online because of the flexibility, and personally curated learning environment it offers. I can attend online lessons from anywhere, and at any time. This allows me to balance school with extracurriculars, and other daily activities.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. I would have less access to personal lessons, and meetings with teachers. And the teachers would be allotted less time, and resources in order to help me on my educational journey.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**-Nathan G. Pardy**

Date: 04/13/2023

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

I'm writing to you because the Governor's proposed budget has a 20% reduction in per pupil funding to cyber charter schools. I'm a parent to two students who attend a cyber charter school in Michigan. I strongly oppose this de-funding and feel it's ill-timed, discriminatory, and unacceptable.

Not only does cutting funding for students (in any school, anywhere, for any reason) make NO sense at this time but it sends a terrible message to children and parents about the worth of their children. The worth of MY children!

There's no place for funding cuts to schools! We're in an unprecedented time of major learning loss, mental health challenges, and teacher shortages. The idea that we would cut funding, for any reason, to a school is insane to me. Especially cutting funding to schools that really stepped up during the pandemic to provide scared children with safety, support, and consistent education. While traditional schools were half-assing virtual education, my children were thriving.

The funding needs for cyber charters aren't less. They're just different. Cutting this funding would cripple schools like the one I work at and my children attend. Those cuts would mean cuts to staffing, support, programming, and resources. ALL of the things we know kids need right now, we would be forcing schools to cut. Forcing schools to make a choice between rising to meet the mental health needs of our children and providing a certified educator for their classroom. That's a no-win decision. It hurts everyone and helps NO ONE.

Now is not the time to send the message that some kids are more valuable than others!

Now is not the time to start a conversation about whether or not our lawmakers in Michigan are discriminating against children because that's what this is. It's discrimination at the highest degree. This cut wouldn't be applied to traditional districts that have fully cyber programs. I need someone to explain to me how that's ethical, equitable, or fair.

Before you consider this cut and vote for it, you should meet with parents and children served by these schools. You should be forced to tell us, directly, that our children aren't worth the same as the kid showing up to a building every day and sleeping at their desk OR attending from home but receiving a sub-par virtual education because traditional districts can get away with this.

Fund ALL kids. Hard stop. No discrimination. No playing politics with children or their education.

There has got to be a better use of your time and efforts than cutting funding to any school in a climate in which being an educator is undervalued, underappreciated, and underpaid.

I'm truly disappointed. I feel that your mission has been to placate unions and not help people. The unions don't run our government, nor should they. They shouldn't get to tell you what talking points you can have. The teachers union hates charter schools and charter school educators. They make that well known. What does that do? How does that benefit kids? What it does... it pits highly-qualified, certified, well-educated and well-in-debt educators against one another rather than having them fighting for what's best for kids. How does that benefit kids... it doesn't!

Charter schools aren't the enemy here. This misinformation is.

We can do better. I hope you can see that and partner with me/us to do that.

Tonya Lowry

Parent

[teachhistory31@gmail.com](mailto:teachhistory31@gmail.com)

269-312-6172



## **Uplift Michigan**

Phone: (313) 335-3218

Fax: (313) 335-3218

<https://uplift-mi.org/>

---

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Erin Pielin and I am an administrator at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs. Many students and families from all over Michigan have benefited from public cyber charter schools.

Cyber charter schools serve all students across the state of Michigan and they deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school and other cyber charters is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools.

I have worked at a public cyber school for many years. I along with the other 50+ staff at Uplift have chosen to work here because we know that parents, guardians, and students need to be able to have a choice in where they go to school. Each and every student in Michigan deserves the right to a quality education, no matter whether it's through a private, public, or charter school. By cutting funding by 20% to cyber charter schools in Michigan, we are not standing up for each and every student in Michigan. It's as if lawmakers are picking and choosing what students should be funded and which shouldn't. Uplift is committed to providing the highest quality of education to our students. With the huge cuts, we will have drastic ramifications that not only affect our staff but more importantly our students and families. All students in Michigan deserve to have equitable funding and not be discriminated against for what type of schooling they decide upon.

Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Erin Pielin

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Reese. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because i had to move.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is amazing because it is very easy.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Reese

Uplift Michigan Online Student

# Meighan Richardson, M.Ed

[msrich1118@gmail.com](mailto:msrich1118@gmail.com) • 419.7709876

---

My name is Meighan Richardson I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs.

Many students and families, including mine, have benefited from public cyber charter schools.

Cyber charter schools serve all students and deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve, and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Meighan Richardson, M.Ed

*...continued...*

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is ryan. I am a 4th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because It is easier.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is amazing because I get to interact with a class.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

ryan

Uplift Michigan Online Student

April 18, 2023

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

I am writing to you today to express my views on the Governor's proposed 20% reduction in per pupil funding for cyber schools contained within the upcoming education budget. I am a 1st Grade teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a cyber charter school that serves students from all over Michigan. This reduction in funding will make a huge negative impact on how well my school can serve our students.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs. My students are happy, learning, and growing every day we are together. This type of learning works for them and that should not be jeopardized.

Many students and families from across the state have benefited from public cyber charter schools like mine. Students come to cyber schools for a variety of reasons. Here are some real examples for why my students and their families chose Uplift:

- They were being bullied at a traditional school.
- They were academically gifted and wanted a more individualized education with the flexibility to attend enrichment opportunities outside of school.
- They have special needs and attend therapies during school hours that would normally force them to miss school. Cyber school allows them the opportunity to engage with school during flexible hours.
- They are fearful of attending a traditional school amid the gun violence crisis in our nation.
- Their local public school is underfunded and/or has poor student outcomes.
- They move around the state of Michigan frequently for work and cyber schools allow them to create stability in their education.
- They have medical issues that impair their immune systems and require frequent doctor appointments making in-person traditional school impossible.

These families chose Uplift for their student's education and they deserve to have that choice. A budget cut of this magnitude would drastically limit the types of services we can provide to our students. Some examples include our ability to provide:

- Paper workbooks to each of our elementary aged students
- Financial assistance to families with accessing internet
- A robust intervention program to help students with learning gaps
- Classrooms with a reasonable teacher-to-student ratio
- Online subscriptions to resources such as IXL and Reading A to Z
- Much, much more!

Cutting the budget of our school and other cyber charters is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours in Education,

Sara Moss

1st Grade Teacher

Uplift Michigan Online School

sara.moss@uplift-mi.org

(586)482-8056



I love my Cyber Charter school because:

i like to learn and  
make friends

By: samory

Age: 7

1st Grade Student  
Uplift Michigan Online School



Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Samuel Johnson. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because because I do not have to deal with bullies..

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is AWESOME because it is just awesome.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Samuel Johnson

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Good afternoon,

My name is Victor H Sanchez and I am a Spanish teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator and minority, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students of different backgrounds to receive an equal education that suits their individual needs. Cyber charter schools offer the opportunity for parents to choose where to send their child. They often are able to go outside the boundary of their normal, neighborhood school. In this way students are spreading into areas in which they do not live, increasing the diversity in a classroom. This is extremely beneficial for minority students as they are twice as likely to attend a top performing Cyber school and have access to a better education.

In addition, many students and families from Uplift Michigan Academy have benefited from our public cyber charter school. Uplift serves all students across the state of Michigan with many extra-curricular opportunities such as tutoring, clubs and field trips for grades Kindergarten through 12. These types of activities help our students develop new skills, pursue existing interests, and build a supportive social circle different. Cutting the budget of our school and other cyber charters is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools.

In summary, education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status, race or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Victor H sanchez  
victor.sanchez@uplift-mi.org



Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Savanna. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because online school is better.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is great because it's online.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Savanna

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is **jason** and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because **i feel safer at home and its easier for me to learn at home and not have to deal with the worries and anxiety of other people.**

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because its alot safer at home. I dont like large crowds and i dont like alot of people and noise. I am high functioning autistic and i am not like a typical preteen. I have a small circle of friends . I got bullied in real school alot and even more so on the bus. I dont like dealing with things like that.

**Online school lets me have freedoms. I get to choose when i can do my work and what subjects i want to start with. I get to be comfortable in my bedroom or in the car with my mom helping her run errands . Online school is so much easier to me than sitting in school for 8 hours when i can be done in a few hours. I can do all my homework in one or two days. I can go to appointments and not have to worry about missing class time.**

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. The funding cut would result in more students in the live lessons that I attend, meaning that I could get less individual attention. My teachers would have more students and may not be able to provide as many one-to-one sessions when I need additional help. With less money coming to my school, I may not have access to technology tools that help me better understand what I'm learning.

I ask that you reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Shyla Schulte**

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Sofia. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because i have bad anxiety..

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is amazing because the teachers are so cool.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Sofia

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Date: 04/13/2023

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

I'm writing to you because the Governor's proposed budget has a 20% reduction in per pupil funding to cyber charter schools. I'm the superintendent at Uplift Michigan Online School, a cyber charter school. I have first hand knowledge of the types of expenses and experiences cyber charter schools have. This cut is unacceptable and discriminatory. It should NOT be allowed to happen. It shouldn't even be a discussion point. Not only does cutting funding for students (in any school, anywhere, for any reason) make NO sense at this time but it sends a terrible message to children and parents about the worth of their children. Equally, it sends a terrible message to charter educators that they're not REAL educators; that the schools they serve are "less than." How can we do that ever, let alone in today's climate?

There's no place for funding cuts to schools!

We're in an unprecedented time of major learning loss, mental health challenges, and teacher shortages. The idea that we would cut funding, for any reason, to a school is insane to me. Especially cutting funding to schools that really stepped up during the pandemic to provide scared children with safety, support, and a consistent education.

Cyber charter schools don't have all of the same expenses as traditional schools. That's 100% true. Just because they don't have the same expenses doesn't mean they aren't spending the same on kids!!!!

Traditional schools receive and leverage millages and bonds to bolster their funding (and pay for buildings).

Charter schools and cyber charters can't do that. Which already puts them at a funding deficit, per pupil.

Cyber charters also don't have transportation and food service needs that mirror traditional schools. However, cyber charters DO have the technology, curriculum, and unique staffing costs that require just as much funding.

Ex: a traditional school doesn't have to pay for dozens of sites, travel costs, and preparation costs for state testing administration that cyber charters do.

The funding needs for cyber charters aren't less. They're just different. Cutting this funding would cripple schools like the one I work at and my children attend. Those cuts would mean cuts to staffing, support, programming, and resources. ALL of the things we know kids need right now, we would be forcing schools to cut. Forcing schools to make a choice between rising to meet the mental health needs of our children and providing a certified educator for their classroom. That's a no-win decision. It hurts everyone and helps NO ONE.

I want to really encourage you to talk amongst your members and have them reach out to cyber charter schools. Attend classes, and see what we do. Before you consider cutting funding for our children you should take the time to see what is actually happening in these schools and give us a chance to show you why you can't cut our funding.

Now is not the time to send the message that some kids are more valuable than others!

Now is not the time to start a conversation about whether or not our lawmakers in Michigan are discriminating against children, because that's what this is. It's discrimination at the highest degree. It's wrong.

Before you consider this cut and vote for it, you should meet with staff, parents, and children served by these schools. You should be forced to tell our educators that they aren't worth the same as unionized educators.

That our children aren't worth the same as the kid showing up to a building every day and sleeping at their desk.

Fund ALL kids. Hard stop. No discrimination. No playing politics with children or their education.

There has got to be a better use of your time and efforts than cutting funding to any school in a climate in which being an educator is undervalued, underappreciated, and underpaid. I'm truly disappointed in our Governor for suggesting that some children are worth more than others. It's deplorable and none of you should support it.

I feel that your mission has been to placate unions and not help people. The unions don't run our government.

They shouldn't get to tell you what talking points you can have. The teachers union hates charter schools and charter school educators. They make that well known. What does that do? How does that benefit kids?



What it does... it pits highly-qualified, certified, well-educated and well-in-debt educators against one another rather than having them fighting for what's best for kids.

How does that benefit kids... it doesn't!

We can do better! I hope you can see that and partner with me/us to do that.

Yours in Education

Tonya Lowry

Superintendent

Uplift Michigan Online School

[tonya.lowry@uplift-mi.org](mailto:tonya.lowry@uplift-mi.org)

810-360-2319

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Summer Stevens and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because I can work on things at my own pace, I have achieved better grades then every other year, and I am not sitting at a desk all day for eight hours. There is also no social or academic pressure put on me.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because I felt safer at home, I knew I would have no distractions and could work on things at my own pace. Since starting Uplift my grades have been the past that they have been in a long time because I am able to focus on schooling and not other things. At in person school it was harder for me to keep up with everything, stay focused and it affected my grades a lot. In school it was harder for me to make friends or keep those friends, being made fun of or bullied. So being able to get away from all that was very important for my mental health.

I love attending Uplift Michigan online school because I like the flexibility that uplift offers. If I have an appointment I am able to get all my work done before that and I am not giving an absence for it. There is no pressure to socialize, I am not stuck working in group projects with people who do not put their all into it like I would. I get to spend more time on my hobbies and do more things that I love because of this flexibility. The biggest thing that I like about this is that you can meet up with teachers one on one if you are struggling with something. Also you can communicate easier with them. I have been so much happier since I have come here and I think that is really important physically and mentally.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. If the budget cut passes, Uplift could have staffing problems. Causing them to not afford to pay the staff, or having a hard time finding new staff members. Because of that reason classes may get larger and cause Live Lessons to be bigger and kids may not be able to get the help they need if the class is larger.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Summer Stevens**



Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Kirstin Stevens and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because I am learning and getting much better grades and my mental health is so much better!

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because, since starting Uplift Michigan my grades have been so much better, I can just focus on myself and not others. I don't have to worry about the other students. When I attended in person school I had a hard time concentrating on my school work.

I really like attending Uplift Michigan because there is no pressure for me to work with other students, which I didn't like, and there isn't a pressure for me to fit in with the other students. I got bullied pretty badly in public school and choosing online school was the best possible choice because I don't have to worry about those kids anymore. When I get done with my school work I can do the things that I love! If I am struggling in a class I am able to set up a meeting with my teachers which is very helpful and can understand the material much better!

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. If the budget cut passes this means uplift may have to reduce staffing. Which would make it so that there are bigger classes and less time teachers could have with their students. Also, my teachers' salaries may be cut so they quit and students may feel forced to go back in person which might not be good for them like it wouldn't be for me.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kirstin Stevens

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Eryk and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because my schedule is much more flexible and I have more time to do things I enjoy.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because I had a lot of trouble in In-Person school with bullying, stress, and dealing with a lot of loss at the time. Joining UMOS has been much more helpful than public/in-person school when it comes to make up work and helping me one on one. I also like to be able to have the choice of having my camera on or off, everyone is also very friendly.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. A funding cut could affect teachers and students, the teachers may have less pay to spend for themselves and for their students.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Eryk Stewart**

Vanessa Stroud  
32400 Robeson St  
St Clair Shores, MI 48082

April 20, 2023

Dear Michigan Legislators,

My name is Vanessa Stroud and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs.

Many students and families from Michigan's 13th District have benefited from public cyber charter schools. Cyber charter schools serve all students across the state of Michigan including those in District 13, and they deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school and other cyber charters is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Stroud". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V" and "S".

Vanessa Stroud

Vanessa Stroud  
32400 Robeson St  
St Clair Shores, MI 48082

Representative John James  
Longworth House Office Building, 1319  
Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2023

Dear Representative James,

My name is Vanessa Stroud and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs.

Many students and families from Michigan's 13th District have benefited from public cyber charter schools. Cyber charter schools serve all students across the state of Michigan including those in District 13, and they deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school and other cyber charters is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Stroud". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V" and "S".

Respectfully,

Vanessa Stroud

Vanessa Stroud  
32400 Robeson St  
St Clair Shores, MI 48082

Senator Gary Peters  
724 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

April 20, 2023

Dear Sentaor Peters,

My name is Vanessa Stroud and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs.

Many students and families from Michigan's 13th District have benefited from public cyber charter schools. Cyber charter schools serve all students across the state of Michigan including those in District 13, and they deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school and other cyber charters is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vanessa Stroud', written in a cursive style.

Vanessa Stroud



Vanessa Stroud  
32400 Robeson St  
St Clair Shores, MI 48082

Senator Debbie Stabenow  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

April 20, 2023

Dear Sentaor Stabenow,

My name is Vanessa Stroud and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs.

Many students and families from Michigan's 13th District have benefited from public cyber charter schools. Cyber charter schools serve all students across the state of Michigan including those in District 13, and they deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school and other cyber charters is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vanessa Stroud", written in a cursive style.

Vanessa Stroud



Dear Lawmakers,

I am in third grade and attend an online school because  
i do not feel comfortable with regular school.

My school is Safe and kind.

I love Uplift because My teachers and friends calm me down when im sad or  
sick.

One thankful online student,

Abigail Simpson

---





Dear Lawmakers,

I am in third grade and attend an online school because  
pepol are geting sick alot in the inprson shcools.

My school is the best and esyest .

I love Uplift because there are relly nice stodonts.

One thankful online student,

Adysona

---



Dear Lawmakers,

I am in third grade and attend an online school because  
i bleave i am apart of Uplift.

My school is awesome.

I love Uplift because the techers are grat at what thay do.

One thankful online student,

Alivia

---

Student: jaiden

Assignment: Student Cyber School Advocacy

Page 1 / 1

Class Code: 5VQ 923

Dear Lawmakers,

I am in third grade and attend an online school because  
I didn't go to school for a long time and my mom said Uplift  
was a good school.

My school is

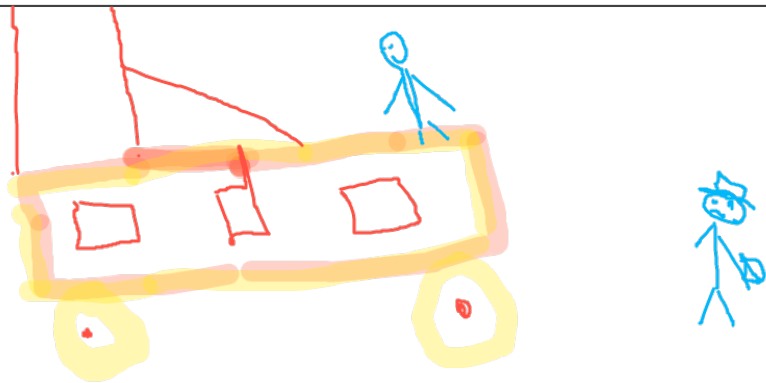
incredible because we have art and live lessons!

I love Uplift because

my teachers are nice.

One thankful online student,

Jaiden





Dear Lawmakers,

I am in third grade and attend an online school because  
i love my school and is good.

My school is cool and good and lovely.

I love Uplift because I have good friends and good teachers and  
I love my school.

One thankful online student,

Jo Miyah

---



Student: kamren

Assignment: Student Cyber School Advocacy

Page 1 / 1

Class Code: 5VQ 923

Dear Lawmakers,

I am in third grade and attend an online school because  
my mom didn't want me to get sick.

My school is cool!

I love Uplift because its fun.

One thankful online student,

KJ

---





Dear Lawmakers,

I am in third grade and attend an online school because

I like it better than regular school.

My school is

really awesome. If I have problems my teacher always can help.

I love Uplift because

My teacher is the best and makes learning fun.

One thankful online student,

Marvin

---

---





Dear Lawmakers,

I am in third grade and attend an online school because

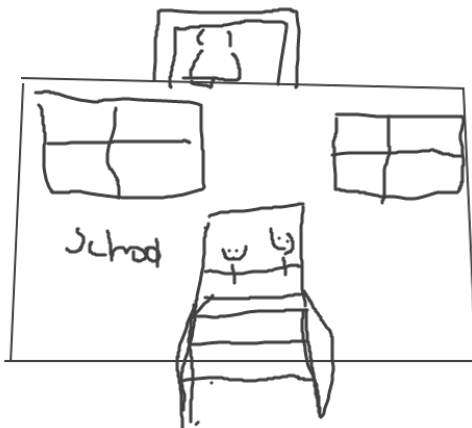
I need to learn!

My school is awesome and fun.

I love Uplift because they have very nice teachers.

One thankful online student,

Naduni





Dear Lawmakers,

I am in third grade and attend an online school because I do cool stuff and I have a lot of fun. I don't have to leave my house and get to spend time with my family. I get to read more and have a very great time with them. I can get help from family if I need it.  
My school is awesome!

I love Uplift because I can do cool stuff, we have fun, play cool games and I just love Uplift!

One thankful online student,

Phoenix

---

Student: Shana

Assignment: Student Cyber School Advocacy

Page 1 / 1

Class Code: 5VQ 923


Dear Lawmakers,

I am in third grade and attend an online school because  
my mom doesn't want me to get bullied.

My school is fun, cool, pretty nice, and it's awesome here. I love online  
schooling. I love making friends.

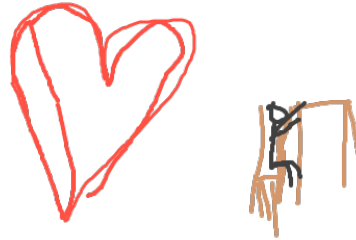
I love Uplift because I feel safe from school shootings and bullying.

One thankful online student,

Shana 

---

I made a heart because I love all of  
my classmates and teachers.



Student: sophia

Assignment: Student Cyber School Advocacy

Page 1 / 1

Class Code: 5VQ 923

Dear Lawmakers,

I am in third grade and attend an online school because it's safe for me.

My school is fun nice cool and AWSOME!!

I love Uplift because You can't get bullyed knowbody will judge you

One thankful online student, Sophia R Gibbons



Student: Victoria

Assignment: Student Cyber School Advocacy

Page 1 / 1

Class Code: 5VQ 923

Dear Lawmakers,

I am in third grade and attend an online school because  
the neighborhood surrounding the regular school here  
isn't friendly.

My school is safe

I love Uplift because we have social lunch with friends.

One thankful online student,

Victoria M.

---





Dear Lawmakers,

I am in third grade and attend an online school because  
it is fun to learn at home.

My school is Uplift and it is awesome.

I love Uplift because people are nice and my teacher is funny.

One thankful online student, *Zander*



My name is Kayla Sullivan and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs. Many students choose online as their school of choice because we are able to offer a safer space for them.

Many students and families, including mine, have benefited from public cyber charter schools. Cyber charter schools serve all students and deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kayla Sullivan

My name is Bill Taylor and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

I have been in education for 35 years as a teacher, administrator, university student teacher supervisor, college instructor, AD and coach. During this time I have encountered many different types of students that did not function well in a in person setting. Students that have mental health issues that schools are not funded well enough to address, students that have been bullied or students that have extreme social anxiety are crippled by the thought of attended face to face instruction. As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs. I have had many students and their parents share stories of how their student weren't surviving at their own brick and mortar school and wouldn't have made it to graduation in that setting.

Cyber charter schools serve all students and deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



My name is Erin Terpstra and I am a teacher and leader at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs. **If you would like to see what true virtual education looks like, I would love to welcome you into my virtual sessions of mine or my colleagues.**

Many students and families, including mine, have benefited from public cyber charter schools. As an educator in virtual education for over 10 year, I have discovered a profound connection with my students and have been witness to many lives changed because families were able to choose the mode and location of their student's educational experience. I have helped teen parents get their diploma with a toddler to care for, where if they didn't have a virtual option, they would have dropped out entirely. I have seen our valedictorian sore to new height when his options for education and courses were expanded to more than what was offered at his local brick-and-mortar, including AP options which were never available to him in the past. I have seen families experience homelessness and housing/food instability, and while they were able to move around to wherever they could find a warm place to sleep, their student still had a consistent and challenging educational throughout the whole experience.

While I know it seems like a cut like this to cyber schools shouldn't impact their ability to educate because it is assumed that cyber schools have fewer expenses, this is simply not the case. Cyber schools are not entitled to local milages and bonds, as well as not entitled to local taxes to support our work. This is already a significant difference in our income in comparison to brick-and-mortar schools. This cut would greatly impact not just our school, but most of all the support and education we can provide to our STUDENTS. This cut will directly impact the STUDENTS in your neighborhoods.

Cyber charter schools serve all students and deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. **Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location.** You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

I love my School.



I love my Cyber Charter school because:

i cant get bullied

By: toby

Age: 7

1st Grade Student  
Uplift Michigan Online School



Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Tom. I am a 4th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because I was bullied at my last school. I didn't learn a lot in my other school..

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is super cool and awesome because Because I have extra help for things I am not good in.I have learned a lot ..

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Tom

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Trey Muchison. I am a 4th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because My parents could not find school districts close and we ran out of ideas, until we found this school..

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is fun because The teachers are caring and funny, and i can make lots of friends something i've never done before and it can lift me above the clouds when I'm down.

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Trey Muchison

Uplift Michigan Online Student

I love my Cyber Charter school because:

I love my teachers!

By:

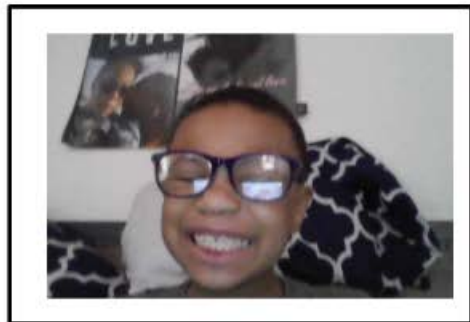
tristianbumpers

Age:

6

1st Grade Student

Uplift Michigan Online School



Uche Uchendu  
17201 Madison Street  
Southfield, MI 4807

April 19, 2023

Governor Gretchen Whitmer  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

My name is Uche Uchendu and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs. All Michigan students deserve equal access to quality education and many students and families have benefitted from public cyber charter schools. I have worked in the cyber charter space for 2 and a half years and in that time I have seen online schools provide unique opportunities for students who needed an option that was not available via other local programs. I have seen students with severe anxiety and depression attend school while in a safe home environment without disruption. Students involved in competitive sports have been able to excel in their sports and academics because of the convenience of cyber education. Uplift Michigan Online School is proud to provide top-class education to students who need to study from home.

Cutting our school's budget is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that **ALL** students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Uche Uchendu*

Uche Uchendu

Uche Uchendu  
17201 Madison Street  
Southfield, MI 4807

April 19, 2023

The Honorable Rep. Natalie Price (House District 5)  
Michigan House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Price:

My name is Uche Uchendu and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs. All Michigan students deserve equal access to quality education and many students and families have benefitted from public cyber charter schools. I have worked in the cyber charter space for 2 and a half years and in that time I have seen online schools provide unique opportunities for students who needed an option that was not available via other local programs. I have seen students with severe anxiety and depression attend school while in a safe home environment without disruption. Students involved in competitive sports have been able to excel in their sports and academics because of the convenience of cyber education. Uplift Michigan Online School is proud to provide top-class education to students who need to study from home.

Cutting our school's budget is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that **ALL** students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Uche Uchendu*

Uche Uchendu





Uche Uchendu  
17201 Madison Street  
Southfield, MI 4807

April 19, 2023

The Honorable Senator Jeremy Moss (Senate District 7)  
Post Office Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Senator Moss:

My name is Uche Uchendu and I am a teacher at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As an educator, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs. All Michigan students deserve equal access to quality education and many students and families have benefitted from public cyber charter schools. I have worked in the cyber charter space for 2 and a half years and in that time I have seen online schools provide unique opportunities for students who needed an option that was not available via other local programs. I have seen students with severe anxiety and depression attend school while in a safe home environment without disruption. Students involved in competitive sports have been able to excel in their sports and academics because of the convenience of cyber education. Uplift Michigan Online School is proud to provide top-class education to students who need to study from home.

Cutting our school's budget is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that **ALL** students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Uche Uchendu*

Uche Uchendu

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Lorelei Vallier and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because they provide an environment that better suits students who struggle to learn at a brick and mortar school.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because I felt I did better online after the Covid lockdowns. I work better when I can set my own pace and I'm not penalized for late work. I also feel more comfortable at home than in a school setting, which helps me to be more focused on my work

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. This might mean we lose teachers which could mean less diverse class choices, less one on one help, and larger class sizes and subsequently less focus on each student's needs.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lorelei Vallier

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is **\_Harper Vanloon\_\_\_\_\_** and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because **it makes me feel more comfortable than being in an online school because I have the option of turning off my camera or leaving my mic off also it makes it so I can do other things during the day than school.**

**I chose to attend a cyber/online school because... I always struggled in inperson school because I struggled with turning in my assignments on time and I also felt self conscious around the other kids at school. Online is like a school that is the students choice, like you can turn on your camera if you want to be seen and if you don't you can just leave it off. And if you want to be heard you can turn on your mic and if you do not just type it in the chat.**

**I Love all of my teachers. They are awesome people who definitely deserve everything in the world. I also love how flexible the online program is because it just makes me feel less overwhelmed. My classmates are also very supportive and nice. Also in an inperson school the teachers are always busy with other students but in online school the check in with you every day and respond to you almost immediately.**

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. The funding cut would result in more students in the live lessons that I attend, meaning that I could get less individual attention. My teachers would have more students and may not be able to provide as many one-to-one sessions when I need additional help. With less money coming to my school, I may not have access to technology tools that help me better understand what I'm learning.

I ask that you reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Harper Lei Vanloon*

I love my Cyber Charter school because:

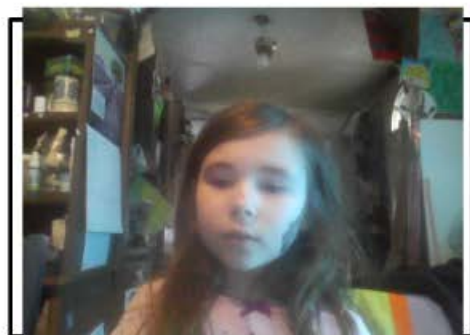
I don't have to  
worry about  
getting sick as  
much.



By: Violet M.

Age: 7

1st Grade Student  
Uplift Michigan Online School



Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Kayla Walton and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because the teachers at this school are very nice. They

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because when covid first started me and my brother left our other school and we had to do online school. At first we were sad we couldn't go to in person school anymore, but on the first day of school we loved it. Everyone is so nice here and if you need help with anything you will always have someone to help you. Now we are both so happy to be at this school and we wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. The funding cut would result in more students in the live lessons that I attend, meaning that I could get less individual attention. My teachers would have more students and may not be able to provide as many one-to-one sessions when I need additional help. With less money coming to my school, I may not have access to technology tools that help me better understand what I'm learning.

I ask that you reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Kayla Walton**

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Melanie and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because I can focus more in school and learn more and also get the help that I need from teachers and also students.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because...I got bullied in public school. I would get made fun of for no reason and it is just better for me to be in a cyber school because I focus more without people trying to make fun of me or without people messing around all around me to where I can't focus. In a traditional classroom/public school a lot of people mess around and tell jokes and do crazy things to where I can't focus and it's hard to do school work. In UMOS I don't get bullied and it is actually the opposite. These kids and teachers help everybody out and they are so nice there is no bullying going around anywhere.

What I enjoy about UMOS is the flexibility, in public school you have to get assignments done that day or do it for homework and if you don't you fail. Well in UMOS the assignments are very flexible You can do them on your own time and not get in trouble for it and that is great for kids like me because I get stressed out easily especially when there's a time limit but in UMOS they work with you on the assignments and help you out to where you don't get stressed out. I also love the Teachers who help you out very much. In public school teachers are very busy dealing with a lot of kids so they kind of leave you on your own but in UMOS teachers go above and beyond to help the kids and not have them stressed.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. There would be less 1 on 1 to help kids. In UMOS 1 on 1 is a meeting with yourself and a teacher if you are not really sure what to do and need help. Without those meetings kids would be lost and getting F's for a grade because they are not sure what they're doing.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Melanie Warren





Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Lizette Whitlow and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because it is easier for me to work from home, and maintain things I do in my daily life.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because I am a disabled student. I have type 1 diabetes, and before attending cyber school, I was in public school. While I was in public school I struggled a lot with being able to focus due to being bullied because of my diabetes, and being targeted for being the student that could not do much because of my diabetes. This became a huge issue with both my physical and mental health, which led to even more bullying. Another issue I've had was not having all of the supplies I needed while attending public school. Often while on the bus, other students would grab my medicine bag and toss it to the back of the bus carelessly, because of this I ended up losing medical supplies, causing me to have a shortage in what I would need to get through the entire day. Since switching to cyber school, I have not had to worry about bullying or not having enough medical supplies. It has been very easy to manage both school and my daily life knowing I won't have to worry about someone taking my things or making fun of me for having a lifelong condition.

Uplift is an amazing school with such kind and caring teachers and staff. I love how each and every teacher is willing to help with any and everything a student may need help with. Students are very kind, caring, and caring! Uplift is full of amazing and talented people and I am so glad I have the opportunity to attend and experience such a wonderful school! Everyone here is judgment free and always willing to help, for that I am thankful, as a student who has never had something like this before.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. If the funding were to be cut, that would take away the opportunity for us students to attend in person field trips that give up the chance to interact with our peers in real life. The funding cut will also affect programs the school runs, such as The Cultural exchange program run here at uplift.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lizette Whitlow

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is GABE and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because **for some students they really are not the fan of being in public areas so that is why online schools are very helpful for students who are who shy or just don't want to have to deal with having so many things to do that you would do in the normal school.**

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because... **During the pandemic I had to switch to online schooling for this one school I went to. but then after the whole covid-19 and all that junk . I decided to go to an online school or more accurately my Mom and Dad all decided that I would go to this school. and so far everything is very good here.**

**There are many things I like about the school. For instance, I love doing social studies and it's very fun. Also this school is Justin in my personal opinion better than the other schools. I mean there's no bullying, it's much simpler to get through classes. another good thing is the lessons are much more understandable .And honestly the work is quicker and like most schools it allows more time for kids to be kid .**

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. The funding cut would result in more students in the live lessons that I attend, meaning that I could get less individual attention. My teachers would have more students and may not be able to provide as many one-to-one sessions when I need additional help. With less money coming to my school, I may not have access to technology tools that help me better understand what I'm learning.

I ask that you reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, GABE Williams

**[Your Name]**

Dear Governor Whitmer,

My name is Justine Wirtjes and I am not only a Relationship Manager at Uplift Michigan Online School I am a parent, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to your proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state.

As a staff member and parent, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs.

My family began attending Uplift in 2020 due to the pandemic, up until that point we hadn't really thought of virtual as an option. During that time, while many students ended up with a significant gap in their education, my boys flourished in their education. I had a Kindergartener and a 4th grader at that time. While many kids in the same grade as my youngest are working hard to catch up, my son is right on track. Where many kids my oldest son's age are trying to relearn how to learn, mine has learned an innumerable number of skills and is also right on track. Their education never saw the gap others did. Fast forward to 2022 when things finally leveled off and most schools were nearly back to normal, we gave our children the option to go back in person or remain virtual, both, without hesitation they chose virtual. This is the choice I would have made for them but I feel it is important for them to have a say in their own education. My boys have loved being at Uplift, they are excelling, they are happy, and they have a right to equal funding.

Many students and families, including mine, have benefited from public cyber charter schools. Cyber charter schools serve all students and deserve equal access to quality education. Cutting the budget of our school is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to you making the right decision in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Justine Wirtjes, Mother and Relationship Manager at Uplift Michigan Online School

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Grayson wirtjes and I am writing to you today as a student who attends a cyber school in Michigan. I am concerned about the proposed 20% cut to funding that would impact the school that I attend, Uplift Michigan Online School. As a student who has chosen to attend an online school, I can tell you that these schools are important for students like me because I love the 3 hour work days, 8 hours is to much, I used to get awful headaches in public school but here I can stay home and do school work from home.

I chose to attend a cyber/online school because I used to get bullied in public school, it has never happened in my 3 years at uplift, improving my education and being less paranoid about being bullied. I dislocated my shoulder one time in public school, they told me to go back to class 3 TIMES that I went to the office and then let my mom come, here i broke my arm and got 2 classes cut off for a while.

I love my teachers and look forward to graduating, the curriculum is great and I understand it. I've noticed a boost in my health and have made multiple friends here that have impacted my life. I feel like uplift has influenced my life and my education, I don't know where i would be without it.

The proposed 20% funding cut to cyber school funding would have a huge impact on my education and the education of thousands of students like me. The funding cut would result in more students in the live lessons that I attend, meaning that I could get less individual attention. My teachers would have more students and may not be able to provide as many one-to-one sessions when I need additional help. With less money coming to my school, I may not have access to technology tools that help me better understand what I'm learning.

I ask that you reconsider this proposed funding cut so that students like me can continue to receive the education that we need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Grayson Wirtjes**

Dear Michigan Lawmakers,

My name is Xavier. I am a 5th grade student at Uplift Michigan Online School. We are a charter cyber school. I attend a cyber school because my mom made me.

I wanted to let you know that your decisions on the state budget affect students like me!

My school is great because i love my techers and my friends .

Cutting funding for cyber charter schools would impact my school.

Please do not vote to cut the funding for cyber charter schools!

Sincerely,

Xavier

Uplift Michigan Online Student

Good Morning

My name is Yesenia Mercado, and I am a staff member at Uplift Michigan Online School, a public cyber charter school. I am writing to express my opposition to the Governor's proposed 20% funding cut to cyber charter schools in our state. As a staff member, I understand the importance of having access to quality education, and I believe that cyber charter schools provide a unique opportunity for students to receive an education that suits their individual needs.

Our students feel safe at home, connect deeper with teachers and staff and are able to stay healthy and keep others safe. Many students and families, including mine, have benefited from public cyber charter schools. Cyber charter schools serve all students and deserve equal access to quality education.

Cutting the budget of our school is discriminating against families who made public cyber their educational choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut to the funding of cyber charter schools. Education is a fundamental right that should be equally accessible to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. You have the responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure that ALL students receive the education they deserve and cutting funding to cyber charter schools is not the way to do so.

Sincerely,

Yesenia Mercado