[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]
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[Date]

Assemblyman Louis Greenwald
1101 Laurel Oak Road, Suite 150
Voorhees, NJ 08043
(856) 435-1247
AsmGreenwald@njleg.org

Dear Assemblyman Greenwald,

In his recent budget address, Governor Murphy committed to fully fund the state school funding formula for the first time since its inception. However, the subsequent revelation that nearly a quarter of all school districts in the state would actually be receiving decreases in their state aid funding was a shock.

In Haddon Township, the cut of more than $800,000, representing an 8.1 percent reduction, comes as a devastating blow to our district and community and will lead to reductions in educational services, programs, opportunities, and staff. Combined with rising costs not accounted for in the funding formula, this cut places additional strain on our already stretched resources.

To address this, I implore you to take the following actions:

1. **Require the DOE to provide the sources of the numbers used for our district's Local Fair Share funding calculation**
   While the formula used for the Local Fair Share component within the SFRA is clear, the sources behind the numbers are a mystery, which makes it nearly impossible for districts to understand their Local Fair Share calculations and means that districts cannot effectively forecast and plan for funding in future fiscal years.

2. **Pass Assembly Bill A3798 and Senate Bill S1410**
   These bills eliminate the outdated census-based method of estimating special education costs and instead uses actual district special education classification rates to determine funding allocations. In Haddon Township, this would lead to us recapturing more than $1 million additional dollars of funding annually.

3. **Pass Assembly Bill A4161 and Senate Bill S3072**

These bills would provide additional state-level aid to school districts who received funding cuts.

4. **Require the NJDOE to reimburse Special Education Extraordinary Aid at the rate laid out in Statute[1] and pass Assembly Bill A1282**
   State statute requires the reimbursement of costs above specified levels for extraordinary special education aid. Annually, Haddon Township loses more than $300,000 in funding we are owed by the state for these services due to proration of the reimbursement. This proration happens when the Legislature fails to appropriate sufficient funding for Special Education Extraordinary Aid which further burdens districts.

5. **Review and update the Local Fair Share component of the SFRA as part of Assembly Bills A4048, A4003, A1280 and Senate Bill S1986**
   These bills will review and update the SFRA. The Local Fair Share calculations in the SFRA have proven to be unpredictable and unstable. It's unclear how the numbers used in the formula are determined or where they're coming from, which makes anticipating and forecasting them impossible.

The Haddon Township community urges the Legislature, the Governor, and the Department of Education to take the above actions and to also reconsider the proposed state aid cuts. Education is an investment in our future, and we must ensure that every child receives the resources and support necessary to thrive and succeed.

These budget cuts harm students and educators in 140 communities across our state, including in Haddon Township.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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[1] N.J. Stat. § 18A:7F-55; 90% reimbursement for costs over $40,000 for in-district placements, 75% reimbursement for costs over $40,000 for out-of-district placements in another public school district and for costs above $55,000 for out-of-district placements in a private school district.
https://lis.njleg.state.nj.us/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=Publish:10.1048/Enu