Dear Colleagues,

 Now is the time to contact your state and national legislators about the problematic issues your school districts are facing. The events of the last few months have been expensive, and the requirements for the June 9th vote will add significant costs.

 Legislators must hear from you. They need to be told that this is not the time for state aid cuts or claw backs. Instead, this is the time to increase the support for public schools. This can be achieved through relaxed regulations and legally changing mandates to cut costs to schools. Of immediate concern is the potential for a state aid cut to districts. Any cut to state aid would be disastrous.

 When you contact your legislator, insist that no state aid cuts should be considered. Cite reasons from your own district’s perspective. Work with your superintendent and business official so that you can accurately cite the implications of a state aid cut. Don’t forget to cite the added burden on school districts and the increased cost of the executive order.

 If the legislator notes that some state aid cuts may still occur, mention the distribution of the cut. No cuts should occur to a greater degree to districts like yours, than to wealthier districts, with larger tax bases, and very little poverty.

Here is a [link](https://files.constantcontact.com/e650ff0d101/c70898e0-e776-47bb-9d0d-81bb112c2c15.pdf) to find the method of contact for your legislator.

Sample Advocacy Letter:

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 I am writing to you about an extremely important topic. School districts are battling on the front lines under extremely difficult conditions. There has been no doubt, that districts have been under considerable strain over the past few months. Some of the rapid changes that have been thrusted upon them are training their educators to work exclusively from home, creating distance learning curriculums that are effective and efficient and setting up virtual meetings for staff, school boards and committees.

 District offices and the financial business of schools have been kept up and running. Administrators have done their best to keep up with almost daily changes. Additionally, schools have provided meals and childcare. Administrators have brainstormed with staff and municipalities to provide technology to everyone in their communities and have spent funds to upgrade systems to handle the surge in needed instructional platforms.

 Now we are facing additional changes and challenges. On June 9th, school districts will hold their budget votes. It has been determined that voters will be provided with absentee ballots. The distribution of the ballots, the collection of the ballots, and the tallying of the ballots will further drain school funds and may cause the relocation of staff to perform additional duties. Along with this, districts may have to add propositions to the ballot, such as for buses, a capital project, the use of reserves, or additional staff proposals. All of this will have to be printed and prepared for mailing. Districts must also consider staying within the tax cap and keeping the financial health of the district going forward.

Cuts to education aid has been mentioned repeatedly at the state level.

If the state believes it has no choice but to cut education aid, then it must be done on an equitable basis, not an equal basis. Poorer districts, those with less income and property wealth, those with elevated measures of community or student and family-level poverty must be spared from significant cuts to state aid. Our school district has already\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (cite what you have already done to right-size, save money, etc.)

Thank you for your urgent and continued attention to this important matter.