

SBA Letterhead

November 10, 2020

Senator/Member of the Assembly [Name]
[Address]
[Address]

Dear [Name]-

I am writing to you today on behalf of our Boards of Education and their students within our region. As you know, all schools face unexpected and costly COVID related expenditures associated with increased technology needs, safety equipment, additional personnel, sanitizing and cleaning supplies, and personal safety items. This all comes at a time when the enacted State budget includes language which allows for the reduction of aid based on certain timeframes and revenue thresholds. **These revenue thresholds have been met and the State now has authority to reduce aid to school districts.**

Earlier in the pandemic, the State began to withhold 20% from all payments to school districts, including aid that has never been reduced in the past such as free meals and grants. The State has since said they will cease this withhold. However, the State has said they will review the reduction of aid in November. The reduction of aid and the amount of any reduction appears contingent upon Federal pandemic financial assistance to State and local governments.

Sadly, stimulus package negotiations are stalled. Significant relief in the form of a larger, much needed stimulus package to help our schools is ESSENTIAL before the State withholdings become permanent reductions.

We need congressional support. We urge you to contact our Federal representatives and let them know that our children are counting on them to come through with a stimulus package that will allow us to provide a sound, quality education for our young residents. Please stand with us and our communities!

Best regards-

[Name]
[Title]