Dear Representative (or Senator) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

As a [*parent, grandparent and citizen*] I am deeply concerned about what is happening in our schools and what is NOT happening in the General Assembly. When pandemic-weary students returned to school this year, they needed skillful teachers who could address the psychological as well as learning challenges. But many students, especially our students in historically low performing schools in rural and urban areas, find themselves in classes “covered” by a substitute day after day. Students need a skillful teacher—not just someone “covering” a class. An alarming number of teachers have left the profession and there are very few people being trained to replace them. Our children are falling further and further behind, teachers are discouraged, and many are quitting.

So far, the General Assembly has only partially funded a few programs. During the upcoming Short Session, the General Assembly needs to amend the state budget, increasing the funding for public schools by fully funding the Comprehensive Remedial Plan.

We have the funds; in fact, we have a large and growing surplus of funds at the state level. Now is the time to address the immediate crisis in our schools and create a firm foundation for addressing historical inequities for our neediest students—those in rural and economically depressed counties, exceptional children, English language learners and children in poverty.

I want to know what you plan to do next to show our teachers and our children—not by words but by action—that we need them, we value them, and that we will provide funds in all parts of our state to address student needs.  What is your plan to fully fund public schools?

Sincerely,

[Your Name]