Dear [Insert Title and Name of Representative]

As the [Insert title] in the Argyle School District, I request your continued support for public school districts as you negotiate a final state budget over the next number of weeks.

I am frustrated and disappointed that the executive budget proposal reverses years of progress towards full funding of the Foundation Aid formula by eliminating the hold harmless provision for hundreds of school districts and lowering the inflationary factor.

Specifically, Argyle is set to receive a reduction of 9.53 % in Foundation Aid which amounts to $589,552 less funding than the previous year. This reduction will negatively impact our district in a variety of ways as it will make it very difficult to offer aspects of our program that benefit our students and families. Simply put, without restoring the hold harmless provision, we are going to struggle to meet the additional needs of our students.

I am urging you to advocate for the following:

- Restore hold harmless – the elimination of which would lead to a decrease in Foundation Aid for 337 school districts.
- Reject the proposed lowering of the Foundation Aid inflationary factor.
- Provide a minimum increase to all districts to account for inflation and staff shortages.
- Begin the process of formally reviewing and updating the current Foundation Aid formula and charge the State Education Department in leading this process.
- Support full funding of expense-based aids ($318 million increase).
- Oppose restrictions on Foundation Aid in the form of "set-asides".
- Reject the proposed school aid database freeze.
- Restore annual funding to make payments against the prior year's aid claims list.:

Now, more than ever, school districts are responsible for so much more than academics, and I hope you will see that the proposed foundation cuts come at a time when the state should be supporting schools instead of cutting their funding. Thank you for your commitment and dedication in support of public school districts and our students.

Sincerely,

[Insert Name]