

_____ date

Honorable _____
Iowa Senate
Iowa Legislature State Capitol, Second Floor
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Senator _____,

I am a school psychologist employed by _____, and I reside in your legislative district. My purpose for writing is to introduce myself and to offer my assistance to you should you desire information related to education and mental health legislation that is coming before your Body.

In my position as a school psychologist, I am assigned to _____ buildings in the metro area. I am the only school psychologist responsible for these two buildings, which results in a total student caseload of over 2500 students. In this setting, I am able to work with students who have problems learning, and find out what strategies are most effective for teachers and parents to use with those students. As time permits, I also follow-up with students, to ensure that they are, indeed, making progress in identified goals. I work with students with behavioral problems, as well as mental health needs, collaborating with teachers and administrators to improve our programs for students. Finally, I have been called in for various emergency situations for crisis counseling (e.g. when students are suicidal or out of control).

There is no question in my mind that schools need the funding, so they can offer programs and serve the needs of all students. As a taxpayer, I would rather pay more for schools, than pay the additional cost later of building prisons. We all know that, on average, students with a high school diploma make more money than those without. Again, as a taxpayer, I want Iowans to make as much money as possible, so we have a bigger tax base and can spread the burden. Fiscally, it only makes sense to me (long-term) to spend the money on schools.

Thank you for your time and allowing me to introduce myself to you as one of your constituents. I would be happy to discuss issues with you further, or provide you with additional information. Often times I know that ideas can sound good on paper, but can create problems when implemented. I would be happy to discuss any upcoming education or mental health related legislation with you. Sometimes I think it helps to have feedback from people who actually work, "in the trenches". I can be reached at _____ or by e-mail at _____

Sincerely yours,

School Psychologist

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City, Iowa 22222