**Your Name:**

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**Home Address:**

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**Your Phone:**

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**Your Email:**

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DEAR GOVERNOR CUOMO,

Every day children around the state attend schools that are underfunded. Our New York City public schools are owed $1.4 billion in unpaid Foundation Aid. They have old books that are falling apart. They don’t have properly certified teachers teaching them. They learn in a classroom with 30 or more students. They don’t have supplies for science labs. These are just a handful of the conditions we find in our schools.

In 2006, the State’s highest courts sided with parents in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit in which the students' constitutional right to “a sound basic education” was being denied. This historic lawsuit is why public schools statewide are owed $4 Billion in Foundation Aid money. In 2020 NYC public schools are owed $1.1 billion and this is why we continue to fight to ensure our children and schools finally receive the money they are rightfully owed.

For too long the state has been shortchanging its students. Many school districts which provide education to mostly low income students and students of color, are not able to provide enough qualified staff, programming and services to meet their students’ needs and to engage them academically and holistically.

**Our children need:**

* Smaller class sizes
* Restorative justice practices (end the school-to-prison pipeline)
* Culturally responsive curriculums
* After- school and extracurricular programs
* Mandated services for Special education students and English Language Learners
* Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A “sound, basic” education is guaranteed by the state constitution for every student regardless of zip code, and because of the policies of the state, this right is being violated. Racial Justice demands NYS prioritize education justice. In 2020, the New York State Legislature will prioritize our public schools.

Sincerely,

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