

Dear Representative or Senator {insert name}:

My name is {insert name} and I am a resident of district {insert district}. I am writing to you today out of a deep concern over the future of our state. I am aware of Arizona’s dire financial situation and know that the state legislature has some very difficult decisions ahead in order to balance the deficit. There are clearly tough choices that have to be made. However, education must not become a casualty of our short-term decision-making.

As outlined in the Arizona constitution, our state leaders should do everything in their power to protect and preserve our state’s educational institutions, recognizing that education is the foundation of Arizona’s future economic growth and stability. Article XI, Section 10 of the Arizona constitution specifically states the following:

“...the legislature shall make such appropriations, to be met by taxation, as shall insure the proper maintenance of all state educational institutions, and shall make such special appropriations as shall provide for their development and improvement.”

I have recently signed *The Arizona Education Commitment* which indicates my support for you and your legislative colleagues to explore **al**l options, including revenue enhancements, when addressing the budget crisis. We must protect and maintain education in Arizona if we care about the future of our great state.

By taking an “all options” approach, aggregate income will rise and additional resources could be generated to provide vital public health and safety services as well. We all must make sacrifices in order to ensure that our education system is strong and provides the qualified workforce pipeline that will help Arizona thrive economically in the years to come.

Sincerely,

{Insert Name}