

<Your name  
Your street address  
Your city, state and zip  
Email or phone>

<March \_\_, 2010>

< Legislator Name and Address Here>

Dear <Formal name of legislator>:

<Introduce Yourself:> I am a resident of Cissna Park, Illinois. My son attends Cissna Park C.U.S.D. # 6. As a parent and community member, I am highly concerned about the State's refusal to adequately provide promised funding to our school district and current proposals that threaten to cut our school district's budget by a drastic 17%.

Cissna Park is a small, self-supporting farming community located 90 miles south of Chicago. With less than 1,000 residents, we are dedicated to supporting our own grocery store, hardware store, furniture store, public library, health clinic, insurance and financial planning services, agricultural-based businesses, and many others. Most of all, we highly value and are actively involved in our own community school district – the backbone and future of our community.

The issues are as follows:

- The State of Illinois has made only 1 of the 4 mandated payments for our district's transportation and special education. If no other payments are made this fiscal year, the district will lose over \$160,000 in state funding. This funding commitment was made last year; the state's refusal to follow through is a complete failure to our taxpaying citizens and our children.
- Of much deeper concern, are the proposals currently discussed for the next fiscal year. The following proposals could result in a devastating loss of \$500,000-\$600,000 in state funding.
  - Our superintendent has warned us that general state aid funding could be cut by as much as \$600-\$700 per student. This is unprecedented! This massive reduction in the general funding would equal an overall funding decrease of \$280,000-\$310,00!
  - An additional proposal threatens to cut mandated payments for transportation and education by 20 – 25%, further reducing our overall funding by \$50,000 - \$100,000.

Mr. <Legislator name>, I understand that you are in a difficult position. But I urge you, as our elected representative, to listen to our voices: my voice, and my child's voice, my school district's voice, and the voice of the future.

Please support payment of the mandated funding already committed, but not yet received, for this fiscal year, and find alternate funding solutions for the future that will offer funding consistent with preceding years.

Sincerely,

<Sign and print your name>