

*****Sample Letter*****

Dear Senator [Name],

I am writing to express my concern about special education funding, specifically as it relates to Monticello School District.

Several years ago, Minnesota Department of Education forced Monticello to change from the fiscal host of a special education cooperative to a joint powers agreement. At the time, MDE assured Monticello School District that there would be no financial harm. However, that change, combined with the change in the statewide special education funding formula, cost Monticello approximately \$1.6 million over the next two years and forced the district to go through a \$2 million budget alignment last year.

Representative Marion O'Neill introduced a bill that was passed in the House (HF 207) to remedy the significant costs and impact of this forced change. Now, the families and students of Monticello need the Education Finance Committee to adopt the language from that bill on the final omnibus bill. I implore you to please consider adopting that language and advocating for the students, families, and staff members of Monticello School District to receive the funding they deserve.

Thank you,

John Doe
Monticello, MN

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