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**Congress of the United States**  
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October 27, 2011

The Honorable Arne Duncan  
Secretary  
United States Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

Recently the Cleveland Metropolitan School Board voted to cut 13.2 million dollars in funding from the school district's budget. This action was taken as a result of the state of Ohio's requirement that the school district have a balanced budget by October 31, 2011.

I am writing to request that you use Department of Education discretionary funds to assist the Cleveland Metropolitan School District for the remainder of this academic school year. I also urge the Department to review ways in which it can assist other school districts around the country who face similar budget issues.

The 13.2 million dollars in cuts include the elimination of pre-school, spring sports programs, summer school, and busing for high school students. All of these programs and items are essential to the success of students, and programs of which no child should be deprived. The programs being eliminated help ensure that our students start kindergarten ready to learn, have safe transportation to and from school, and learn lifelong lessons on the sports field. I consider the elimination of these programs to be a major set-back to a school district that is currently in the process of a transformation to ensure the best education for all of Cleveland's students.

Cleveland's children should not be punished because of the budgetary decisions made on the Federal or State level. Balancing a budget on the backs of students, and their families is unacceptable and will have negative effects both inside and outside of the classroom.

Thank you for your commitment to providing a quality public school education to all of America's children. I look forward to working with you to ensure that the budget cuts taking place in Ohio do not take away vital programs, crucial to the success of Cleveland Metropolitan School District students.

Sincerely,



Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress