

Dear Legislators:

You will soon be meeting in a special session of the legislature in order to fix shortfalls in a critical area of spending, particularly for seniors—the Medicare Savings Program.

We are asking that you also respond on the same day to a critical need for the state's children. Please take action to reverse the destructive cuts in ECS funding for our schools that were recently made by the governor, and restore the \$58.2 million to cities and towns. This can be accomplished on the same day of the Medicare Savings Program session by simply voting to call an additional session that begins at the conclusion of the Medicare Savings vote.

When the governor cut ECS funding last month, students, teachers and parents took some comfort when legislative leaders and many other legislators spoke out against the cuts, and said that they should and would be reversed. You are aware of the destructive consequences of the cuts—fewer resources for children, layoffs of teachers and other educators, increases in class size, program and enrichment cuts, and disruption in our classrooms and communities in the middle of the school year. This unfairly diminishes the quality of education for all students.

The time for action is now.

While the governor provided a two-month window for the legislature to act regarding the Medicare Savings Program in order to provide some protection for seniors, there is no protection for our children. If the legislature fails to take action at the same time it protects the Medicare Savings Program, irreversible damage to our children's education will occur. Towns are being forced to make harmful choices for children and schools as we speak.

Please let us know whether in addition to standing up for our seniors you will also do the same for our children and schools. Thank you very much for your help.

Sincerely,



Sheila Cohen
President
Connecticut Education Association



Jan Hochadel
President
AFT-Connecticut