Legislator’s Name  
Address  
Harrisburg, PA zip  

Dear Representative/Senator___________,

The ___(name of your campus’s faculty organization)___ joins with the __number__ other faculty committees listed at the bottom of this letter to protest Governor Corbett’s proposal to cut funding to Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) campuses by over 50%.  We believe that this budget, if passed, would compromise the educational mission of the PASSHE system to make an affordable high-quality education available for all Pennsylvanians. Currently, PASSHE institutions offer an outstanding education at a very low cost. Follow here with two or three points (not in bullet form) about the quality of a PASSHE education…

This kind of quality, at this kind of price, is possible because of the Commonwealth’s long-term financial commitment to __your institution here___ and to the 13 other universities in the PASSHE system. The ___(name of your campus’s faculty organization)___ appreciate this support and recognize its many important consequences and benefits, including:

- The affordability of a __your institution here__ education for working families who might otherwise not be able to send their sons and daughters to college.
- High retention and graduation rates, especially among lower-income and at-risk students.
- Varied course offerings that provide students comprehensive training in their chosen fields, thus preparing them for a competitive job market.

Quality of classroom instruction is also directly impacted by State support. PASSHE institutions pride themselves on the quality of their teaching, but this quality rests on faculty’s ability to give students individualized attention. In particular, the smaller class sizes that __your institution here__ students enjoy is a direct consequence of the State’s financial contributions, and results in the following practices essential to student success:

- Opportunity to provide detailed feedback on student work in order to strengthen their communication and writing skills.
- A focus on complex and multi-faceted assignments designed to assess students’ learning gains in critical thinking and problem solving.
- The ability to model “best teaching practices” for our students, particularly our education students.

Vigorous State support promotes a positive educational environment in other ways as well, by ensuring the following:

- A wide range and high frequency of course offerings so that students can complete their degrees on time.
- The recruitment of outstanding faculty attracted by opportunities to teach courses in their areas of expertise.
- A relatively small student-to-faculty ratio so that students can receive personalized
academic and career mentoring from faculty advisers.

We write as professionals who have our students’ best interests at heart and know what they need to succeed. While we recognize the Governor’s goals of fiscal responsibility and savings, we also believe that a 50 percent reduction in state appropriations to PASSHE universities would cause immediate and irreversible damage to Pennsylvania’s educational and economic future. It would undermine the successful practices described above and compromise our ability to educate effective leaders for Pennsylvania communities, schools, and businesses. Continued investment in __your institution here__ and PASSHE, by contrast, will enable the Commonwealth to maintain a competitive edge in the areas of research, teaching and business development – key factors in driving the economy forward.

Need a final paragraph asking the Senator/Representative to vote no on this provision of the budget, something along the lines of:

The Governor’s budget is coming up for a vote on __________. We ask you, Representative/Senator __________ to vote no on the spending proposals concerning PASSHE schools. [This needs serious tweaking by someone who understands the voting process in House and Senate.]

Thank you for your advocacy on behalf of __your institution here__, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, and the strength and prosperity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Name
Position
Campus
Address

Other PASSHE faculty groups and their leaders who are writing representatives in their area include:

School, name of organization (name of chair/president, position)
School, name of organization (name of chair/president, position)
School, name of organization (name of chair/president, position)
School, name of organization (name of chair/president, position)
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