

March 27, 2019

To: The New Jersey State Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee

From: Michael Thompson, Pemberton Township High School Class of 2014

As someone who was born and raised in Pemberton, I've experienced first-hand the benefits our school district provides courtesy of a variety of programs that enrich student life. From the fantastic honors and accelerated programs to more intuitive classes and programs such as TV production, I was always grateful for the variety of opportunities available to my fellow classmates and I. From Pemberton Township High School, I received my degree at NYU last year and currently work as a broadcasting assistant for the NBA. I firmly believe I developed crucial career skills thanks to my activities inside and outside of the classroom at Pemberton Township Schools.

In light of potential budget cuts, I worry that the opportunities given to me will not be available for Pemberton students in the future. Slight budget cuts and monetary redistribution are to be expected from time to time, but such a drastic reduction in aid would have a detrimental effect on the township's students and community. Pemberton's students, who aren't always given the luxuries of those in other districts, deserve to have equal access to quality educators and extracurriculars. Millions in lost aid could hinder the ability for the next generation of students to chase their dreams and reach their full potential.

I stand in support with the teachers and faculty who helped make me who I am today and hope the state can explore avenues to alleviate the potential devastation these cuts would create.

Sincerely

Michael Thompson,
Pemberton Township High School Class of 2014
New York University Class of 2018