From: <u>Karen Leyva</u>

To: Senate Finance Committee

Subject: Education cuts

**Date:** Friday, April 24, 2015 6:39:41 PM

I am a teacher. Although I teach a class of grades 4-64-6 students who have autism, I also help those children with integration into the general education population which puts me in several classes throughout the day. I can tell you that the classes are too large to manage effectively while teaching enough academics and life skills to create real success for their futures. I see students come to school unable to sit, listen, learn, and interact appropriately. It's hard to learn those things when the average home holds multiple televisions, gaming systems, and parents are too tired, busy, or simply too involved with their own lives to teach responsibility, and the classes are too full of children and not enough adult attention to go around.

Please don't cut education. Keep the funding and consider new projects to teach parents to give their children the necessary tools to make the most of what's available during the school day. Help society to get better, not to fall apart even further.

K. Leyva