

Sample Letter to Members of Congress

Dear Senator Clark,

My name is Emily Johnson and I am a constituent living in Springfield and a senior at Springfield High School.

Recently I learned that 60 percent of public school children cannot read or do math at grade level but Congress is considering cuts to education programs. This is important to me because I believe children are our nation's greatest investment and that every child should receive a high-quality education.

When I was younger, I attended Head Start. I still remember curling up on the reading rug and diving into a book that took me far away from the harsh reality of my youth. These early experiences helped forge my love for reading and put me on a path to graduate from high school and attend college.

I urge you to protect children from all budget cuts and to invest in early childhood development and education. To compete in a globalized economy, we need healthy, educated children. Even economists agree that investing in education today will strengthen our economy tomorrow.

Don't sacrifice children and our future in budget battles. Now is the time to step forward for children. I am counting on you.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I look forward to hearing from your office.

Sincerely,
Emily Johnson
1800 Educate us Lane, Springfield

Step 1: Let your senators and representative know **who you are and where you are from**.

Step 2: State the problem: **More than 60 percent of public school children cannot read or do math at grade level and yet Congress is considering cuts to education programs.**

Let your elected officials know this issue is important to you: "*This is important to me because...*"

Step 3: Include a personal story. If you know of a child enrolled in or who graduated from Head Start or Early Head Start, or a young adult who benefits from Pell Grants, share their story with your lawmakers. If you are a student, share why you think your school and teachers could use additional help.

Step 4: Ask your elected officials, as members of Congress, to **protect children from all budget cuts and to invest in early childhood development and education.** Use one or several of the bullet points below:

- Economists agree – investing in early childhood development and education today will strengthen our economy tomorrow. Cuts to Head Start and Early Head Start will harm children and are penny-and-pound foolish.
- To compete in this globalized economy, we *must* do better in educating our children and youth. We must prepare all children to graduate from high school and go on to college.
- Cut billionaires, not babies. Choose children over corporations. End tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires and close tax loopholes for corporations.

Step 5: Let your elected officials know that **you are counting on them** to be a leader for education programs in the budget battles.

Step 6: Thank your congressional lawmakers.

Be sure to sign your letter and to include your address and title if applicable.