1. *Date*
2. The Honorable *Place Senator or Representative’s Name Here*
3. *Address of Office Here*
4. Dear *Senator or Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*,

I am writing today on behalf of the more than 60,000 children in Pennsylvania who are identified as gifted learners. In particular, I wanted to draw your attention to the fact that Gifted Education in Pennsylvania is an unfunded mandate. Chapter 16 of the PA School Code dictates how schools and districts are required to support gifted learners, however, there is no money allocated to support these students in the State budget. With little support and little oversight, many districts, especially in more impoverished areas, are likely to provide minimal, if any, support for these students.

Sadly, many people incorrectly assume that gifted students will be “just fine” because they are good students and like school. The reality is that gifted students need specialized education, just as students with learning disabilities do.

I am writing to ask you to consider adding $73 million as a line item for Gifted Education in your next proposed State Education budget. Funding at this level could go towards improving equity by funding teaching positions as well as providing greater levels of administrative support and oversight to ensure that students across the State of Pennsylvania are getting the educational support that they need to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,