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**Senate of Pennsylvania**

June 18, 2009

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Via Fax: (202) 228-1229

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senate  
393 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Via Fax: (202) 228-0604

Re: 2009-10 State Budget

Dear Senator Specter and Senator Casey:

United States Education Secretary Arne Duncan recently wrote to Governor Ed Rendell indicating that the education funding proposal included in the state budget passed by the Senate of Pennsylvania on May 6, Senate Bill 850, would cause him to look negatively at any application from Pennsylvania for federal Race to the Top funds or other competitive grants.

The approach taken in Senate Bill 850 is simple: The Commonwealth cannot spend what it does not have, and we should not increase taxes at a time when so many hard-working families are struggling to make ends meet.

Secretary Duncan's position that he will penalize Pennsylvania for using federal stimulus funds to maintain support for basic education appears designed to pressure the General Assembly into enacting an increase in the Commonwealth's personal income tax (PIT).

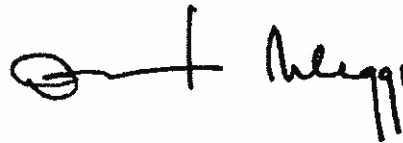
Senate Bill 850 uses American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to maintain basic education funding in fiscal year 2009-10 at the same level as the current fiscal year. Combined with other federal funds, this approach will provide school districts across Pennsylvania with significant funding increases. Numerous other states have appropriated ARRA funds in a similar way.

If we are unable to use ARRA funds in this manner, Pennsylvania will be forced to make drastic cuts to other programs or, under Governor Rendell's formulation, to increase the PIT by \$1.5 billion.

I trust that you will support our efforts to avoid either of these devastating outcomes. Accordingly, I would request that you contact Secretary Duncan and urge him to exercise his discretion in a way that is favorable to Pennsylvanians.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pileggi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dominic Pileggi

cc: The Honorable Robert Brady  
The Honorable Chaka Fattah  
The Honorable Kathy Dahlkemper  
The Honorable Jason Altmire  
The Honorable Glenn Thompson  
The Honorable Jim Gerlach  
The Honorable Joe Sestak  
The Honorable Patrick Murphy  
The Honorable Bill Shuster  
The Honorable Christopher Carney  
The Honorable Paul Kanjorski  
The Honorable John Murtha  
The Honorable Allyson Schwartz  
The Honorable Mike Doyle  
The Honorable Charles Dent  
The Honorable Joseph Pitts  
The Honorable Tim Holden  
The Honorable Tim Murphy  
The Honorable Todd Platts