

Dear Dr. Handy-Collins:

Thank you for contacting me to express your concerns about the impact of sequestration on education. It's good to hear from you.

I absolutely agree with you. Education must be a top priority - it certainly is with me. Our nation is in an amazing race - a race for discovery and new knowledge. We're in a race to remain competitive and to foster an innovation society, to create new ideas that lead to new breakthroughs, new products, and new jobs. Our country must remain an innovation society, because a country that doesn't innovate, stagnates. That's why education is so important - the federal government must help state and local efforts to strengthen public schools to educate the innovators of the future.

Across-the-board spending cuts known as the sequester are dysfunctional and disruptive. Federal agencies now face draconian spending cuts that unfairly harm middle-class families and civil servants. This is a disaster for the nation. It means less funding for law enforcement and federal prisons. It means less funding for public health and safety. And it means that civilian support for our military is weakened. This must be stopped.

In Maryland alone, the damage to our educational system will be irreparable. Specifically, Maryland will lose approximately \$14.4 million in funding for primary and secondary education, putting about 200 teaching jobs at risk. Furthermore, about 12,000 fewer students would be served and 30 schools throughout Maryland will not receive funding.

That's why I joined my Democratic colleagues and offered an alternative to stop the sequester called the American Family Economic Protection Act (S. 388). It would have replaced the across-the-board cuts with a balanced solution that includes new revenue and strategic targeted spending cuts to reduce our debt and grow the economy.

S. 388 would have closed the tax loopholes for corporations that send jobs overseas and end lavish subsidies for oil and gas companies. It would have restored fairness to our tax code by ensuring that high-earning Americans pay at least 30 percent income tax on their second million. This legislation would have also ended outdated farm subsidies that pay for crops that were

never planted. Unfortunately, this legislation did not receive the 60 votes needed to advance.

Know that I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress to stop the sequester. Again, thanks for writing. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you in the future.

Sincerely,
Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator