

Date

The Honorable (full name)

Room \_\_\_\_\_

11 South Union Street

Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Senator (or Representative):

As a [PARENT/TEACHER /ADMINISTRATOR] I am concerned about the challenges facing our gifted education programs in Alabama. Gifted education is vital to healthy communities and to our state and nation's future. As a new legislative session begins and legislators meet to develop their policy plans, please keep the following in mind:

1. Intellectually gifted children and youth are those who perform or who have demonstrated the potential to perform at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment. **These children and youth require services not ordinarily provided by the regular school program.**
2. In the fiscal year 2021, the following were funded through the Alabama Education Trust Fund:

● ESL	\$2,348,734
● Prison Education	\$13,533,615
● AMSTI	\$30,299,318
● ARI	\$78,239,601
● Pre-K Programs	\$132,215,000
3. The surrounding southeastern states **all** either **fully fund or partially fund** their gifted program. Gifted Education **is not funded** in Alabama.
4. By funding gifted education, Alabama will have the following results:
  - Reduce students leaving public schools for private schools or homeschooling
  - Decrease drop outs – 20% of drop outs are gifted students
  - Raise achievement for gifted students who are underachieving due to unchallenging curriculum in schools
  - Bring more leadership to Alabama
  - Create new jobs and industries as bright innovative students become leaders in business and entrepreneurs

Funding for gifted education will keep us from squandering a natural resource: **our best minds!**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

(Your name and address so they will know your district)