April 28, 2013

Office of the Governor

Attention: Pat McCrory

North Carolina Governor

20301 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Governor McCrory,

In reviewing your proposed budget on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 I am deeply saddened by the terminology, and the way in which teacher assistants were depicted as virtually unnecessary. It takes a team effort of everyone working together within a school system in order for students to reach their maximum potential. Teacher Assistants are: “Helping Hands in Education.”

With the new common core and essential standards that were adopted by North Carolina, now more than ever teachers and students in kindergarten through the third grade need teacher assistants to help establish a solid educational foundation for successful mastery of concepts and skills that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. Statistics show that if a student is not reading on grade level by the time that they complete third grade it is unlikely that they will become proficient readers, and will suffer educationally for the remainder of their educational journey.

By eliminating teacher assistants we will further see our students slip through the cracks in greater numbers, see the quality of education in North Carolina go on a downward spiral leading to destruction, and create highly hostile and stressful working environments. Teacher assistants are valuable to a school system, can fulfill and take on many different responsibilities and roles, and are necessary to the success of our schools and students. For the job that they do, the many roles that they are asked to fulfill, and the salary that they earn, I would say that North Carolina is getting a pretty good bargain for their money.

Sincerely,

A Concerned parent

(your name here)