

June 21, 2022

Senator Kim Ward  
Majority Leader  
292 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Leader Ward:

As ongoing budget negotiations continue, we write to express our strong support for increasing educational opportunities for students in need through Pennsylvania's successful tax credit scholarship programs.

For years, Pennsylvania's EITC and OSTC programs have successfully helped students escape failing schools. We believe it is imperative to expand these programs enough to rescue the 75,000 kids left on waiting lists for scholarships.

For the sake of these kids and their futures, we respectfully urge you to expand the tax credit scholarship programs by at least \$150 million. This amount would be sufficient to move these vital programs into sustainable and equitable balance with student need moving forward.

This total is consistent with other legislative proposals and would adequately address current demand for program participation. SB 1 included a \$150 million increase with an automatic escalator and SB 527 also included an automatic escalator. On the House side, HB 1541 included a \$150 million increase in EITC while HB 1088 included a \$160 million increase in scholarships, with an automatic escalator for future years.

In a budget where special interests are asking us for billions of dollars, we must fund meaningful programs like tax credit scholarships in a transformative way, so that all students can attend a school where they can succeed. A zip code should not determine the quality of an education.

Sincerely,



Senator Doug Mastriano  
33<sup>rd</sup> District



Senator Scott Martin  
13<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Mike Regan  
31<sup>st</sup> District



Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill  
28<sup>th</sup> District




Senator Camera Bartolotta  
46<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Chis Dush  
25<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Elder Vogel Jr.  
47<sup>th</sup> District



Senator David Argall  
29<sup>th</sup> District



Senator John DiSanto  
15<sup>th</sup> District



Scott E. Hutchinson  
21<sup>st</sup> District