Dear **[Representative/Senator]**:

The **[School District/Board of Education]** writes to express its concerns about some of the possible **cuts in the House concurrent resolution budget reconciliation package.**

As schools and educators across our community prepare our children for a globally competitive future, federal investments that help ensure children are healthy and well-fed are vital to our success. We are particularly concerned about the following policy proposals:

1. **Cuts to Medicaid:** Medicaid is a critical lifeline for schools – helping to fund special education and school-based health services, as well as school staff, specialized equipment, and assistive technology for students with disabilities. Our school system receives **[$$$$$$]** annually, which helps pay for **[examples & types of services].** Across the nation, schools receive nearly $7.5 billion in school-based service funding, making Medicaid the 4th largest federal funding source for public schools. Medicaid, long enjoying bipartisan support, is both effective and efficient at delivering supports – a 2023 Congressional Budget Office analysis found that just one extra year of Medicaid coverage during childhood leads to higher earnings and better productivity as an adult.

   Proposals to artificially cap spending, block grant the program, or reduce the federal match would create a catastrophic shift to our state budget, ultimately creating a huge new burden for our local budget. This shift could have devastating consequences for our students with disabilities and students who rely on our school-based Medicaid services for their healthcare. We're proud that **[state]** has expanded school-based Medicaid services, and our students, families, and district have benefited from this increased access. These cuts put those expansions at risk.

   Cuts in Medicaid would make it incredibly difficult for our district to provide adequate services, especially with the chronic underfunding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This loss of revenue could put our district in the difficult position of having to eliminate critical services, lay off staff, or raise taxes.

2. **Cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** Nearly one in five children in our nation lives in a household without enough to eat. Our [district/county] has **[XXXXX] kids who benefit from free school meals or otherwise might go hungry**. Programs like SNAP that provide food assistance to families outside of school are also critical to ensuring that kids do not have to go hungry. While SNAP funding does not come directly to schools, nearly 40 percent of those who participate in SNAP are children.

   Research shows that SNAP benefits improve children's health, help them do better in school, and make them more likely to graduate. When students come to school hungry, they can't learn. Proposals that would make significant cuts to the federal share of SNAP will have dire consequences for families already struggling to put food on the table. With the rising cost of food and school meals, our schools will not be able to fill the gap and provide additional support to needy families.

3. **Removing the Municipal Bond Tax Exemption:** Tax-exempt municipal bonds are debt securities issued by state and local governments to fund public projects like schools. These bonds are unique because the interest earned by investors is typically exempt from federal income taxes.

   This tax-exempt status makes the bonds attractive to investors, allowing units of governments to borrow at lower interest rates. Savings from these lower rates are passed along to communities, allowing us to stretch our dollars further. Tax-exempt bonds issued by state and local governments have financed more than three-quarters of our nation's infrastructure. Please do not take any action that will make it more difficult to finance and rebuild our aging public schools.

Congress has the opportunity to continue to invest in our nation's children and our public schools. **We respectfully ask you to oppose policies that will make our kids less healthy and hungrier, and make it harder to fund school infrastructure upgrades.**

Thank you for consideration and your service.

Sincerely,