***Date***

Dear Legislator,

I am writing to urge you to restore the funding that has been cut in the Governor’s proposed budget for the School Based Youth Services Programs (SBYSPs).  These programs provide critical services to youth in need right at their school.   Counseling, substance abuse education and prevention, employment counseling, health awareness, and linkage to other supports are available to students at no cost.  School Based Youth Services programs literally save lives.

***Insert your own your story here***

This year, all students throughout the State are coping with the pandemic.  Many have lost loved ones to Covid 19.  Many have felt socially isolated, away from their friends, and are anxious about coming back to school this year.  How could these programs be cut at a time when these children and youth need them most?

Please restore funding for all the School-Based Youth Services Programs throughout New Jersey.  The budget cannot be balanced on the backs of children and youth in need, especially in these uncertain times.

If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration and please invest in our most precious assets – our children.

Sincerely,

***Your name***

***Email/phone number***

***Organization or Role in the Redwing Community***