

September 17, 2009

Governor Beverly Perdue  
Office of the Governor  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Perdue:

I watched the evening news tonight as you and Erskine Bowles and a bevy of other education gurus bemoaned the state of education in North Carolina. I watched with a pain in my heart.

You know why? This past June I was recognized in my county as my school's *Teacher of the Year* ... the most meaningful accomplishment of my professional career. But, on August 3<sup>rd</sup> I was informed that my position as a teacher had been eliminated due to budget cuts. It was gut-wrenching.

I could not fathom that the "teacher of the year" would be cast aside. When I asked why/how this was possible, I was told that my content area ... art education ... is "non-essential." How can that be? How can ANY caring teacher be considered non-essential?

So, I'm sure you can imagine that Mr. Bowles' contention that "North Carolina has to hire more and better teachers" was a slap in my face. I was a teacher. I was a good teacher. And I lost my job anyway.

I agree with you ... the state of education in North Carolina is abysmal because our kids can't read, and I wanted to make a difference. I tried to make a difference. But it was all to no avail. I voted for you as "the education governor," and lost my job as an educator that same year.

Try as I might to avoid it, I fear I come across in this letter as "bitter." I'm not. I'm just so disappointed and disheartened.

Governor Perdue, we can't continue to do things that are counter-intuitive to what we say. Our kids can't afford it.

Regards,

  
Bill Massey

Raleigh, NC