**Sample Letter to State Senators**

**Urging Opposition to A-3902**

* Electronic Correspondence: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/SelectMun.asp>
* Legislative District Office mailing addresses: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/abcroster.asp>

***Board Members*:** If corresponding independently to a legislator, include the following language at the end of your letter:

“Please note that I am expressing my opinion in my capacity as a private citizen and am not speaking on behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education.”

Dear Senator :

Assembly Bill 3902, approved by the General Assembly on March 25, would pose serious financial difficulties to local school districts and the educational process. I urge you to oppose the legislation.

The bill would authorize the Department of Community Affairs to permit municipalities to delay the transmission of property tax revenue to school districts during gubernatorial-declared emergencies, such as our state’s current situation.

I fully recognize the impact of the current public health emergency on the state and local governments, as well as local school districts. This legislation, however, would only worsen the situation for our community.

New Jersey’s public schools are highly dependent on property tax revenue to support education programs. On average, local property taxes constitute nearly 60% of public school revenue. A delay in payments from municipalities could seriously disrupt the educational process in the **[*Name of School District*]** Public Schools—perhaps bringing it to a halt.

Although school buildings are closed during the current health emergency, the education of the **[*Name of School District*]** School District students is taking place through remote learning and home instruction. Continued timely transmission of school property taxes is critical for the education process to continue without interruption.

Municipalities are designated as the authorities to collectproperty taxes. But those taxes are levied for specific purposes—e.g., municipal, school, county, fire district—and these obligations must continue to be met.

A-3902 would place a severe strain on school districts and the students and families that they serve.

Sincerely,

Name

Home Address