

# Ask Me About Supporting Our Schools and Communities

Kansas NEA has joined with the members of Kansans for Quality Communities to defend the quality of life that all Kansans have come to enjoy and to protect those services that strengthen our communities.

## Budget cuts hurt OUR KIDS

- ❖ Professional staff reductions mean reduced help for kids: in the classrooms, in the counselor's office, in the library, in the after-school programs and additional learning opportunities.
- ❖ Classified (support) staff reductions mean other staff members have to do that work on top of or in place of their normal work.
- ❖ Enrichment programs are slashed: field trips, art classes, extracurricular activities.
- ❖ Students' ability to be engaged is affected when the rooms are cold, lights are turned off, supplies are limited, staff stress is apparent.

## Budget cuts hurt OUR COMMUNITY

- ❖ More cuts are unsustainable. More cuts will eliminate direct and indirect jobs in nursing homes, schools, health care and social services, local government, public safety, and construction.
  - Thousands of our neighbors with disabilities will be placed on waiting lists for services.
  - State highways and bridges will continue to erode.
  - Communities will be forced to close their schools.
  - Our neighbors who have devoted their lives to public services may lose their jobs, their income, and their homes.
  - Our parents and grandparents will be denied access to long term care.

## The Solution

- ❖ We are looking for the legislature to craft a bipartisan solution to this budget crisis that will provide for vital state services and ultimately restore the damage done in 2009.

- ❖ We support a revenue plan that would include closing loopholes in exemptions and make targeted increases that, when combined, will provide sufficient resources to balance the budget, prevent additional cuts, support the restoration of services to our communities, and address the inevitable elimination of federal stimulus funds.

## What Can We Do?

Contact your legislators at home or in Topeka.

Letters may be sent to Representatives and Senators at  
The Honorable (full name)  
State Capitol  
Topeka, KS 66612

Begin each letter:

Dear Senator (last name): or

Dear Representative (last name):

Email may be sent to

First name.last [name@house.ks.gov](mailto:name@house.ks.gov)

First name.last [name@senate.ks.gov](mailto:name@senate.ks.gov)

Example: [John.Smith@house.ks.gov](mailto:John.Smith@house.ks.gov)

Kansas Legislature: <http://www.kslegislature.org>

For more information, go to [knea.org/legislative](http://knea.org/legislative)

## Kansans for Quality Communities

### Member Organizations

Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas  
Disability Rights Center of Kansas  
InterHab Resource Network for Kansans with Disabilities  
Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association  
Kansas Association of Public Employees  
Kansas Association of School Boards  
Kansas Families for Education  
Kansas Health Care Association  
Kansas National Education Association  
Kansas Organization of State Employees  
Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas