Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I know this is a difficult year for state legislators who struggle about how to balance the budget. As K-12 education in Colorado is facing a large cut, I respectfully request that you do not consider cutting Gifted and Talented Education funding. This small line item in the budget is the only money we receive to serve gifted students in our state. While small, this money allows us to identify and serve the gifted students in our schools. In my district, money is spent on hiring qualified personnel, purchasing necessary testing and instructional materials, and providing support for teachers who work with these students in their classrooms. Cutting this funding would not save the state much money, but it could effectively end services for students who need additional support to grow as much as they are able. While the population of identified gifted students is about half that of students on an IEP, gifted education only receives about one-twentieth of the funding that special education receives. Gifted students are often misunderstood and underserved. Please help us ensure that we can continue to educate these students at a level commensurate with their abilities.

Thank you,