[YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS]

[DATE]

[RECIPIENT NAME AND ADDRESS]

Dear [RECIPIENT],

I am writing to you as an educator passionate about local public schools. In light of the growing movement for Black lives, direct action needs to be taken to ensure the safety, well-being, and education of our students. This is inclusive of what and how we teach. The public school system was created for white students of a certain economic background, and it will continue to serve only those students until we intentionally address that.

In the middle of the last century, content-based curriculum was only considered important in view of national defense. Since the release of “A Nation at Risk” in the early 1980s, curricular management moved from knowledge- towards skill-based learning, and came with a drastic increase in standardized testing. Research has demonstrated that students learning skills without delving into content will not retain either the skills or the content - the content must be the focus, with the skills built in to assist learning. This also means that schools must teach all subjects - many low-income, low-performing schools focused on test results will teach exclusively reading and math, to bring scores up.

Culturally responsive teaching must be automatically expected of all teachers. This also means educators need to be well-prepared to implement this in their classrooms. They need to help students learn about themselves first, and expand their circles of reference to include all different people. Building empathy and the ability to address bias is key in our society today.

We are performing a massive disservice to all students with our current education system. Well-prepared teachers with new curricula are needed to address these issues and help students grow into adults able to develop our communities.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]