



City of Tacoma

Mayor Victoria Woodards

September 13, 2018

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee,

As Tacoma Leaders, we have worked beside our Teachers and Tacoma Public Schools for the last decade, bringing us from a place of failure to a place of local and national recognition that strives to serve every student every day. The innovation and hard work of our teachers and administration has been unprecedented. This work has increased the hope and aspirations of our children and of our whole community, and it continues to play a significant part in increasing our overall quality of life and equity for every citizen of our city and every student and family of our school district.

In the shadow of the McCleary Resolution, it is acknowledged that legislative action has disproportionately injured Tacoma Public Schools through inequitable regional funding formulas, significant loss in levy dollars, and new and inflexible requirements on the expenditure of dollars. In the wake of the Janus Decision, our Teachers must strike and as a City Council we stand with them in their right to do so. We also stand with our School District who has been erroneously placed in a situation where the only way forward is to approve a non-sustainable budget that will result in millions and millions of cuts over the next few years, which will no doubt hurt our newest teachers and our most at risk students.

Our Pierce County Legislative contingent has written a letter committing to rectifying this as early as possible in the upcoming State legislative session so as to minimize the financial harm coming to our students and families. Today, we write asking for your prompt and public commitment to make Tacoma Schools financially whole as soon as possible.

Each day that this strike continues, the trust and commitment that makes the transformation of children's lives and our community possible is further diminished, as partnerships unravel and the inability to find a solution in a no-win situation further injures members of our community, but in the end it is always our most vulnerable children and families that loose when schools must strike.

We commit to standing with our teachers, our school district, and our legislative contingency during this upcoming legislative session, and we urge you to take immediate and public action to seek to resolve this strike with full fairness to our teachers and with all respect to collective bargaining. We understand that the consequences we are feeling were not intentional; however, we are relying on you at this time to help protect the current and future well-being of our city.

Sincerely,



Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor



Anders Ibsen, Deputy Mayor and
Council Member District 1



Catherine Ushka, Council Member
District 4



Lillian Hunter, Council Member At
Large

CC:

Carla Santorno, Tacoma Public Schools Superintendent
Tacoma Public Schools Board of Directors
President Angel Morton and Members, Tacoma Education Association
Steve Conway, State Senator 29th Legislative District
Steve Kirby, State Representative 29th Legislative District
Steve O'Ban, State Senator 28th Legislative District
Dick Muri, State Representative 28th Legislative District
Christine Kilduff, State Representative 28th Legislative District
Jeannie Darneille, State Senator 27th Legislative District
Laurie Jenkins, State Representative 27th Legislative District
Jake Fey, State Representative 27th Legislative District