As a school psychologist and your constituent, I am asking for your full support on the McCleary decision. As a citizen of Washington State and a public school employee it is very clear that our schools have not been properly supported for a very long time. Our classrooms are packed with students, we have outdated curriculum, mental illness is escalating in our children, we are losing excellent teachers, we cannot attract individuals’ into the field of education, and our pay is not keeping pace with inflation. Each year we make less income, and have fewer resources to support out students. Time and again, the voters of Washington State have supported the schools in lowering class sizes and increasing wages and yet these mandates are ignored by legislators.

As a school psychologist, I see the direct impact on our students and the direct consequences to our state. Currently we have the 5th largest economy, but our class size is 48th and our pay is 42nd in the United States. We give approximately 170 billion dollars away in tax exemptions. Providing a tax exemption on food makes sense, but many of the tax exemptions do not benefit the citizens of the state of Washington. They only benefit a select few. Our children are denied proper support, while luxury items are considered tax exempt. For instance, revamping a private plane or yacht can be tax exempt. Why? Our legislators have embraced an economic system that has devastated our infrastructure and our educational system over the past 30 years.

The simple truth is that we need merit pay for legislators. The wealthy in and outside of our state can pump money into campaign funds. Currently an individual has to live in the state to vote, and each individual has only one vote. As a school psychologist, I believe that it is important to educate the community as to how you are voting and the subsequent impact on our children. For instance, does the legislation you propose and support strengthen our educational system, improve access to higher education, and thus the opportunity for economic advancement in our state? If so, then you will have my vote, and I will inform the community in which I live. If not, then you will not have my vote, and I will inform the community in which I live.

Please tell me how you plan on supporting the McCleary decision. Thank you for your review and consideration.