Dear Senator,

I am writing to you as I am concerned with the unintended consequences that will occur due to the implementation of the class size mandate in the 2018-19 school year. I am in favor of reducing class sizes and appreciate your efforts to do so while also improving 3rd grade literacy. Unfortunately, the current legislation can only accomplish your goal by wreaking havoc in unacceptable ways in schools across the state. I am the parent of a [list student ages/grades] and they will be negatively impacted by the impending changes.

Some potential harmful consequences resulting from the legislation as it stands today include:

* Larger class sizes for 4th and 5th grades as teacher assignments shift to support lower classes. Without additional funding, schools cannot hire more teachers than currently allocated for the same number of students. [Add additional commentary if desired.]
* Districts face eliminating arts, music, foreign language, computer, and other “special classes” from elementary schools with those resources reallocated elsewhere. [Add additional commentary if desired.]
* Schools currently at capacity (and over capacity) based on classroom space will require use of alternative spaces for classrooms - e.g. trailers, media centers, gymnasiums specials classrooms (if still staffed, specials would become “mobile”). It may also require doubling up existing classrooms – e.g. 2 classes/2 teachers per classroom. [Add additional commentary if desired.]
* A requirement to add more teachers could exacerbate the teacher shortage and result in untrained teachers filling the void. [Add additional commentary if desired.]
* Middle and High Schools feel the impact as districts re-direct funds to support these legislative requirements. [Add additional commentary if desired.]

Legislative analysts warned that many complications would arise if class sizes and allotment usage were restricted in the current manner. **I am asking that you urgently take action during the Special Session of the General Assembly so we may accomplish the goal of early literacy in a way that makes sense.** First, provide both revisions and criteria to allow districts flexibility for determining class size maximums. Second, please approve additional funding to ensure that early literacy is possible for ALL North Carolina students.

Sincerely,

 [Your Name]