

SAMPLE LEGISLATOR LETTER SAMPLE ONLY

[INSERT DATE]

[INSERT LEGISLATOR'S NAME]
[INSERT LEGISLATOR'S ADDRESS]

Dear [INSERT LEGISLATOR'S NAME]:

As one of your constituents, I would like to express my concern for the decrease in state funding to public universities in Illinois. Specifically, as a **[INSERT: graduate, alumnus, friend]** of Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) I am concerned about funding for the University.

Since Fiscal Year 2002, Northeastern's operating budget has been cut by more than 10 percent, for a loss of \$4.6 million. This loss has resulted in tuition increases and has put considerable financial strain on a great number of Northeastern students, many of whom work to support their families while trying to earn a university degree.

Accordingly, I respectfully ask the General Assembly to fund the NEIU operating budget of \$46.2 million proposed for FY 2009. Among other items, this money would go toward salary and cost increases, as well as program requests such as bilingual teacher training, the Task Force on Retention and the First Year Experience initiative. Also, I ask that the General Assembly pass the Capital Bill, which includes funds for the construction and maintenance of an education building for NEIU.

Northeastern Illinois University is a good investment for the State of Illinois, with nearly 2,000 Illinoisans in its employ and tens of thousands of students and alumni living, working, studying and teaching throughout the state. When one considers the integral role NEIU faculty, staff, students, and alumni play in Illinois, the dollars invested in higher education for Northeastern will ultimately be returned exponentially.

It is for these reasons and others that I ask that you support in-full the budget appropriation request from Northeastern Illinois University including its request for Capital support.

Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME]
[INSERT FULL ADDRESS]