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I speak here this afternoon as an educator who operates from an agency that cares for and supports people, especially the city's children and their educational development in collaboration with the Syracuse City School District. It is difficult for me and many others to understand why education is not a priority when planning a budget. How can you cut back on funding which is already insufficient? I think a budget of this kind lies mainly on education, health, security and food supplies, in that order. These things are dependent on each other for good quality development of a country. If we really care for and love our country, then we must properly support and nurture God's children and future leaders in every aspect of their growth and development.

In cutting back on funding for the most interesting parts of our children's educational and recreational lives; what messages are you sending to parents and those who are planning to be parents? Is it, "stop having these children, because there will be no more safe haven where they can go after their regular school hours to sit, receive tutoring with their home work, do other fun learning activities, eat and stay out of trouble because funding does not cater to them anymore"?

Please think before you shrink the funding for public education, let the funding for educational development remain, "if not better but not worse".