

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 8, 1983

Dear Friend:

On June 1, the City of Lowell took a major step toward the goal of achieving excellence in our public schools.

That evening the Fantini panel (Dr. Mario Fantini, Dr. Virginia Biggy, and Dr. Robert Sperber) met with city and school officials to begin the process of putting together an action plan to make Lowell's schools the best of any middle-sized city in the Northeast.

The effort is long overdue.

Several national studies have dramatically portrayed the decline of public education all across America.

More particularly for us in Lowell, these studies have shown how economic vitality and good public education are mutually dependent. Lowell's economic rebirth will continue only if our schools are as good as those in other states -- and other countries, like Japan.

As parents and taxpayers, we all have a stake in a major commitment to quality education. It won't be easy. It will mean upgrading curriculum, tighter discipline, better fiscal management, improved standards for both promotion and graduation, and computer literacy, etc.

Some will resist these changes vigorously.

Many, however, have already signed up to demand a better school system.

We expect the cooperation of school officials and city officials. I am encouraged by the support of teachers and principals. The parents in our city are getting better organized. The business community has agreed to help fund the action plan. The clergy are attempting to instill a sense of greater expectations.

This is a vitally important effort.

It is an effort to express love for our children by giving them the tools necessary to be ready for their future.

It is an attempt to claim our vision that Lowell should be a first class city with first class expectations.

It is, finally, an attempt to show what can be done, and to thereby give hope and encouragement to every other city in the Northeast that has to make the same adjustment.

Please join us.

We need your active support.

This is an invitation to be part of a nationally significant effort that will benefit our children and the economic future of our city.

To help make the action plan a reality, please call the Mayor's office and leave your name, or write to me c/o the Mayor's Office, City Hall, Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA 01852.

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

PAUL E. TSONGAS  
United States Senator

PET:mm