Mr./Ms./Mx. First and Last Name
Title
District or School Name
Street Address
City, ST, Zip code

Re: Free speech violation

Dear Mr./Ms./Mx. First and Last Name,

On behalf of [student name], a student at [name school], I am writing to express my deep concern about the [name the action taken against the student such as: disciplining/censoring] for [name the reason an action was taken against the student] on [date].

The Education Code and California law prohibit public schools from limiting student speech unless it falls under specific exceptions, such as legal limits to profanity and hate speech. [Name the action/speech by student] is not a legal exception. The passive expression of a viewpoint does not by itself create a “substantial disruption” at school or infringe on the rights of other students or school staff.

Schools expose students to a robust exchange of ideas so they may become informed adults capable of self-governance and debate. Historically, student voices have fostered change in our nation from the Civil Rights Movement and Vietnam War protests, to current advocacy for climate change, gun control legislation, and the assertion that Black Lives Matter. Such actions by young people inside and outside of classrooms have had lasting impacts on our democracy.

Public schools are tasked with protecting the rights of students to freely express themselves, even when the message is controversial and/or others disagree with their point of view.

In closing, I implore you to allow [student name] to [name activity] and ensure that all school staff have been instructed to uphold their constitutional free speech rights. Furthermore, I expect you to take action to prevent this breach from happening in the future.

Sincerely,

[First Name] [Last Name]

[Email Address]

[Your Address]