

1 Name: Nia Vaughn Age: 11 Chapter: Knoxville Chapter

2 Your Legislator: Justin Lafferty, District 89 Congress House/Senate (circle one)

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4 **To establish:**

5 The Teacher’s Promise bill which will make sure TN teachers have the school supplies they need
6 each year for their classrooms.

7 **Be it enacted by the House of Representative and the Senate in congress assembled, that:**

8 **Purpose:** Each year my mom buys me school supplies from Target. Mommy spends like \$100 on
9 pencils, paper, glue, wipes, folders, and other stuff. My teacher also has to buy stuff too. I think a
10 lot of kids don’t have the money to buy this stuff every year. If we had a law that made sure
11 supplies were provided for each class – just like books or furniture – teachers would not have to
12 use their own money to buy supplies.

13 **Section I – Purpose & Goal:** Nurses don’t have to buy the gloves and needles they use. Chefs
14 don’t have to buy their knives and spoons. Engineers don’t have to buy their computers or
15 calculators. Why do teachers have to buy their supplies? If we made sure every Tennessee teacher
16 had the supplies they needed, then teachers and parents could use their money to buy other extras.

17 **Section II – Research:** Website, www.adoptaclassroom.org, says that teachers spent an average
18 of \$745 in the 2019/2020 school year. Most teachers spend their own money. 45% of teachers said
19 their spending increased during the pandemic with distance learning for things like printing, ink,
20 paper, and mailing. [Tennessee Code 49-3-359](#) give teachers \$200/year but they only get to keep
21 \$100 for their classroom. There are 25 kids in my classroom. That is \$4 per kid. That would only
22 buy one pack of pencils and a few folders.

23 If Tennessee Promise can make college free (\$3,000/year/student), why can’t a bill like Teacher’s
24 Promise pay for the school supplies teachers need to do their jobs? The code should make sure
25 teachers have enough money to provide supplies for the entire classroom. What teachers get now
26 is not enough. We should give them \$100 for their own supplies and then give them enough money
27 to buy the supplies for each of the students in their classroom.

28 **Section III - Impact:** There are 78,000 teachers in Tennessee and almost one million students.
29 Having enough supplies to support ever student and teacher would impact 1,078,000 Tennessee
30 residents. It would mean every kid would have what they need to go to school. It would mean
31 teachers wouldn’t have to worry about supplies each year.

32 **Section IV – Legislative Responsibility:** A Tennessee Code exists. The \$100 is provided by the
33 Basic Education Program. A Tennessee State Legislator who supports this idea would take this
34 idea and present it to the state legislation.