The Honorable:

I am (your job position) and a member of the Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics (GCTM). I am writing to express my concern about the elimination of the Hope Teacher Scholarship Loan Program for certified teachers pursuing advanced degrees to teach mathematics. Teacher pay is already low compared to other jobs requiring a college education, and when furlough days occur and raises do not occur, paying college tuition from personal funds is not a viable option for teachers. The opportunity to pay college tuition with Hope scholarship funds has been a huge help---but now that opportunity does not exist. The State of Georgia has a relatively new curriculum, the Georgia Performance Standards, and plans to implement the even newer Common Core State Curriculum in 2011. Because these curriculums are both challenging to learn and to teach, additional schooling is important for teachers. A negative result of pulling Hope scholarship funds is less prepared teachers to teach this curriculum resulting in less prepared students.

Please reconsider the allocation of funds through the Hope scholarship program.

Sincerely,