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Premier Doug Ford  
Premier's Office Room 281, Legislative Building, Queens Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1  
Via email: premier@ontario.ca

August 11, 2020

Dear Premier Ford,

Yesterday I was joined on the lawn of Queen's Park by Kelly Iggers, a parent in my riding of Davenport, who started a petition campaign calling on your government to urgently introduce a safer plan for the return-to-school – specifically, a plan for smaller, safer classes.

Premier, Ms. Iggers' petition had 198,221 signatures by 2 p.m. yesterday. The number continues to grow. Parents, grandparents, students, community members and education workers all across Ontario are demanding better. They want more, smaller classes. They want more staff hired to support our students. They want full funding to ensure a safe return. They believe your plan 'is shameful and demonstrates a reckless and disturbing lack of care for the health and safety of our children, teachers, school staff and communities'."

The NDP has repeatedly asked you to take urgent action to address these concerns, to keep our students safe and to ensure Ontario continues to fight the COVID19 pandemic. We have very few weeks left to make a difference. Premier, I disagree that the only options – as you stated today – are to put children in 'strip malls and industrial areas.' For months, I have been proposing working with all levels of government to identify space options, using classrooms and schools that were closed and mothballed by the previous government, and more. There are many options. What is lacking is the will to invest in our children, and their public education.

Premier, I urge you again to take the concerns of these families seriously. ALL our children and frontline workers are deserving of a fully-funded, safe return to school in September in smaller, safer classes.

Sincerely

**Marit Stiles**  
**MPP for Davenport**