



## SAMPLE FOR LETTER-WRITING CAMPAIGN

May 15, 2014

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
455 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
RE: Safe Space for Youth



See [www.cogsanetwork.org/GSAs4Justice](http://www.cogsanetwork.org/GSAs4Justice) for information about addressing letters for senators and representatives.

Dear Senator Brown,

I am a resident of Springdom, Ohio, and I am writing because there is a terrible lack of safe places for youth in my community.

Springdom's mayor and council are proposing a town-wide ordinance requiring that people under the age of 18 be accompanied by an adult while shopping at the Springdom Mega-Mall. They borrowed the idea from other communities that have passed similar rules in response to incidents such as kids getting into minor fights on mall property. Mayor Jackson believes that by requiring youth to be accompanied by chaperones, she will eliminate this problem. Some of the strongest arguments against the idea are that it will dramatically reduce business and it may actually increase danger – if kids can't go to the mall, they'll find other, not-so-well-guarded places to hang out.

As a young, concerned citizen of Springdom, I agree that youth violence at the mall is a big problem for both kids and adults, but I think the best way to address this matter is by attacking it at its root. To be perfectly honest, there is nothing to do in Springdom after school lets out. That's why kids go to the mall! The youth of Springdom need a cool, safe space where they can go after school to hang. I've spoken with several friends and teachers, and we all agree that Springdom would benefit greatly from the addition of a community space offering athletics, art, and other activities so that kids can socialize in a constructive manner.

Specifically, I am writing to ask you to promote the maintenance of community spaces and the creation of more parks and nature trails. Springdom, for one, has thick woodlands. If you worked with the Ohio Parks Department to create running and biking trails in communities such as Springdom, everyone, not only the youth, would benefit greatly. I know that I for one, speaking as a youth and concerned citizen, would gain considerably from this program.

Thank you for considering this matter.

Sincerely,

*(your handwritten signature)*

Betsey Lopez

CC: So-and-so, Jr., Springdom school board president