

K-STATE Educate. Motivate. Activate.

WILDCATS
for **HIGHER**
EDUCATION



May 4, 2016

Wildcats for Higher Education and Jayhawks for Higher Education:

Call to action: Please contact the governor regarding higher education funding

Early Monday morning, the Kansas Legislature passed a budget dictating that the governor must base any potential cut to higher education for the next fiscal year on each university's **all-funds operating budget**, as opposed to their **state general fund allocation**.

This formula penalizes Kansas State University and the University of Kansas, whose all-funds budgets are higher because of our large research portfolios. In essence, this formula punishes K-State and KU for doing research and successfully winning federal research grants that bring new dollars to Kansas. In addition to harming the two universities and the state we serve, this type of funding decision would send a terrible message to the nation that Kansas not only doesn't value earning research grant funding, but that our state actively penalizes our research universities when they succeed.

Additionally, this formula defunds the two universities that collectively create the most graduates for the Kansas workforce, the most jobs, the most startup companies and the most economic development in Kansas. It is not a coincidence that while Kansas is experiencing population declines and flat economic growth, the counties most directly served by KSU and KU - Riley, Johnson and Douglas - are growing.

Lastly, this language undermines the authority of the governor and the Kansas Board of Regents. The Regents and the universities have been unanimous in their desire to protect the block grant system and leave system-wide funding decisions to the Regents and, in the case of allotment cuts, to the governor. The language approved May 2 inserts the Legislature into higher education funding decisions that should be left to the Regents and the governor.

The reality is, the language in the budget does not raise any new revenue for the state and serves only to punish Kansas State University and the University of Kansas for being successful research universities. The two universities are united in their strong opposition to the proviso language in the budget. We are asking Wildcat and Jayhawk supporters like you to contact Governor Brownback and ask him to veto the Legislature's harmful proviso that dictates where cuts are to be made to higher education and unfairly places more of the burden on K-State and KU.

Higher education plays a critical role in the Kansas economy, and we need the governor's support in providing stable and reliable funding for our universities. Please contact his office [by email](#) or at 785-368-8500.

Thank you for your continued support of Kansas State University and the University of Kansas.



General Richard B. Myers
Interim President
Kansas State University



Bernadette Gray-Little
Chancellor
University of Kansas

(NOTE: View the [Kansas Board of Regents news release](#) on this topic.)

K-State alumni and friends are encouraged to ask their state legislators to support higher education. Please visit the Alumni Association Wildcats for Higher Education web page (www.k-state.com/WHEhelp) for more information on the messages and facts to support higher education.

If you know of other K-State alumni and friends who would like to receive Wildcats for Higher Education updates, please forward this message.

If this message was forwarded to you and you would like to receive Wildcats for Higher Education updates, please sign up at www.k-state.com/WHEUpdates.

The Kansas State University Office of Government Relations also provides weekly updates on legislative issues important to K-State and higher education. Visit the following link for updates when the Legislature is in session: www.k-state.edu/govrelations/state.

Brought to you by the K-State Alumni Association

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