

## K-STATE Educate. Motivate. Activate.

### WILDCATS for HIGHER EDUCATION



#### Wildcats for Higher Education - March 22, 2017

##### State legislators continue to debate budget issues impacting higher education

We are continuing to monitor budget debates in Topeka that could impact higher education and ask that you continue to emphasize with your local legislators the importance in protecting and prioritizing budgets for Kansas State University and higher education.

Last week, the Senate Ways and Means Committee discussed House Bill 2052, legislation passed earlier this year by the House Appropriations Committee for fiscal year 2017 budgets. HB 2025, as passed by the House, did not include any budget reductions for K-State or higher education. Late last Thursday, the Senate Ways and Means Committee also approved a 2017 budget with no cuts to higher education. The 2017 budget is in conference committee this week. Hopefully, this legislation will continue to move forward with no cuts in higher education this fiscal year.

In addition, committees in both chambers of the Kansas Legislature are debating budgets this week for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. That legislation should move to the respective house floors late this week or early next week.

In the days ahead, there will continue to be much debate and activity regarding state budgets and the direction of the legislative activity can change quickly.

Earlier this month, the Kansas Supreme Court ruled that state funding for schools (K-12) is inadequate and gave the Legislature a June deadline to create a new school financing formula to fund schools adequately, while also attempting to address significant shortfalls in the state budget.

Unfortunately, state appropriations for Kansas public higher education institutions have eroded by a cumulative \$75.1 million over the past three years. The impact to K-State was \$23.7 million. Continued cuts and inadequate funding to higher education also will have a long term negative impact on the state's prosperity. An educated population is critical for economic growth and prosperity in the state of Kansas. With the \$7.3 billion impact the state's universities have on the Kansas economy each year, we can't afford to let the Legislature continue with reduced and insufficient funding for higher education.

We are coming up on a critical date for the Legislature - April 7 is the first adjournment for the 2017 session, and it's important they hear your voice before then.

As Wildcats for Higher Education, we ask for your continued support in asking state legislators to support stable and fair funding for K-State and higher education.

We will continue to provide you with updates on legislative activity throughout the session. For additional information on legislative bills impacting higher education and K-State, please visit the [Governmental Relations website](#). With more than 85,000 K-State alumni living in the state of Kansas, our voice makes a difference. Please contact your legislators today.

Go 'Cats!

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K-State alumni and friends are encouraged to ask their state legislators to support higher education. Please visit the K-State Alumni Association's [Wildcats for Higher Education](#) web page 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 here](#).

The Kansas State University Office of Government Relations also provides weekly updates on legislative issues important to K-State and higher education. [View updates](#) when the Legislature is in session.

**Brought to you by the K-State Alumni Association**

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