



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Brenda Allen, President
Lincoln University
Office of the President
International Cultural Center (ICC), Second Floor
Lincoln University, PA 19352

Patrick Gallagher, Chancellor
University of Pittsburgh
Office of the Chancellor
4200 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Neeli Bendapudi, President
Pennsylvania State University
Office of the President
201 Old Main
University Park, PA 16802

Jason Wingard, President
Temple University
Second Floor, Sullivan Hall
1330 Polett Walk
Philadelphia, PA 19122

July 27, 2022

Dear Presidents Allen, Bendapudi and Wingard, and Chancellor Gallagher:

As you are aware, the Pennsylvania General Assembly worked very hard to ensure we supported the students and families attending your institutions in the recently enacted state budget and related legislation. The funding provided in the budget guarantees the Commonwealth's long-standing relationship with your institutions continues and discounted tuition rates at your schools can be provided to Pennsylvania residents.

In recent days, it has been made public that Gov. Tom Wolf intends to provide each of your schools with additional funding outside of the scope of legislative authorization as part of pandemic response-related discretionary funding he was provided in FY 2022-23.¹

First, given that this money is being provided outside of the normal scope of legislative approval, it should be viewed by you, and will be viewed by us, as a one-time influx of money that will not be considered as an appropriation of the Legislature to your school. As such it would not be included in the base funding for your institutions that is traditionally driven out through non-preferred appropriations.

¹ *Wolf quietly steers \$40 million to Pitt, Pa.'s other state-related universities,*
<https://www.spotlightpa.org/news/2022/07/pennsylvania-pitt-penn-state-funding-boost-tom-wolf/>

Second, and most importantly, given that this additional funding equates to the 5% funding increase each of your schools sought at the start of the budget process,² we encourage each of you to freeze already-announced plans to increase tuition at your institutions or stop consideration of tuition increases.

We were disappointed to learn that almost immediately after your FY 2022-23 state funding was approved, Pitt,³ Penn State⁴ and Temple⁵ announced tuition increases for the coming academic year. In at least two instances,⁶ the state flat-funding appropriations over last year was cited as a cause for the tuition increase.

Given the recent news about receiving additional funding for the 2022-23 academic year, it would only be prudent to roll back these decisions for all students, but at a minimum, for Pennsylvania residents attending your institutions.

We would like to remind you that Pitt, Penn State and Temple have large endowments with endowments at Pitt⁷ and Penn State⁸ larger than or equivalent to the amount in the Commonwealth's Rainy Day Fund.⁹

Rather than take a punitive posture towards Pennsylvania's students and families attending your institutions by raising tuition and fees, the recent funding news coupled with large endowments upon which you can rely to help offset inflation-led cost increases makes now the perfect time to reverse course on tuition increases.

² *Pa. state-related university leaders make a case for increased funds ahead of 2022-23 budget*, <https://www.penncapital-star.com/government-politics/pa-state-related-university-leaders-make-a-case-for-increased-funds-ahead-of-2022-23-budget/>

³ <https://www.chancellor.pitt.edu/spotlight/2023-university-budget-update>

⁴ <https://www.post-gazette.com/news/education/2022/07/14/university-of-pittsburgh-tuition-gallagher-affordability-higher-education-penn-state-colleges-debt/stories/202207140099>

⁵ <https://www.post-gazette.com/news/education/2022/07/14/university-of-pittsburgh-tuition-gallagher-affordability-higher-education-penn-state-colleges-debt/stories/202207140099>

⁶ President Bendapudi, Penn State University – “Inflationary pressures, revenue losses from the pandemic, demographic shifts and other factors driving cost, coupled with successive years of flat funding, pose significant challenges for the University and will require us to look deeply at our budget and spending in the coming year.”

Ken Kaiser, Chief Operating Officer, Temple University - “Unfortunately, we are facing near-unprecedented inflationary pressures, and these pressures are compounded with the state appropriation remaining flat for what has now been four consecutive years.”

⁷ The University of Pittsburgh's current endowment is \$5.68 billion.

<https://www.utimes.pitt.edu/news/trustees-committee-0#:~:text=Pitt's%20endowment%20gained%20more%20than,51.5%20percent%20of%20the%20total.>

⁸ Penn State's current endowment is \$4.81 billion.

https://oim.psu.edu/sites/oim/files/sar_2021.12.31.pdf

⁹ After FY 2022-23 transfers, Pennsylvania's Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund is funded at \$5 billion.

<https://www.patreasury.gov/newsroom/archive/2022/07-08-Rainy-Day.html>

We hope you will give this request all appropriate consideration as you, and Pennsylvania's families, continue to plan for the upcoming academic year.

Sincerely,



Kerry A. Benninghoff, Majority Leader
171st District
Pennsylvania House of Representatives



Bryan Cutler, Speaker of the House
100th District
Pennsylvania House of Representatives



Donna Oberlander, Majority Whip
63rd District
Pennsylvania House of Representatives



Martin Causer, Chairman
House Republican Policy Committee
67th District
Pennsylvania House of Representatives



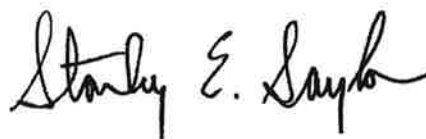
George Dunbar, Republican Caucus Chairman
56th District
Pennsylvania House of Representatives



Martina White, Republican Caucus Secretary
170th District
Pennsylvania House of Representatives



Kurt Masser, Republican Caucus Administrator
107th District
Pennsylvania House of Representatives



Stan Saylor, Majority Chairman
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