

AR:	13
Title:	Calling on the Texas Legislature to Allocate More Funding to Higher Education
Stage:	IN SESSION - 11/19/2004
Owner:	Omar Ochoa
Modified:	2004-11-21

001| **Whereas** The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board reports that higher
002| education appropriations decreased 2.7% from \$9.51 billion in 2002-2003 to \$9.25
003| billion in 2004-2005.
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005| **Whereas** The University of Texas System's state appropriations have decreased 6.7%
006| from the last biennium.
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008| **Whereas** From 1984-2001 state spending for public safety and corrections has
009| increased 258% and health and human services funding has increased by 161%,
010| however funding for higher education has only increased 39%.
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012| **Whereas** Comparable universities such as the University of Minnesota, Ohio State
013| University, University of Illinois, University of North Carolina, Michigan State,
014| and the University of Michigan all receive more state appropriations than the
015| University of Texas at Austin.
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017| **Whereas** The University of Texas at Austin's tuition has tripled over the last
018| decade.
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020| **Whereas** The lack of state appropriations has led to a majority of the University's
021| budget burdens to be shifted to students via substantial tuition increases.
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023| **Whereas** \$5.4 billion of state money invested in higher education results in a
024| \$28.7 billion return for the Texas economy.
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026| **Whereas** The Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn concludes, "Every dollar
027| invested in our state's higher education system pumps more than five dollars into
028| our Texas economy."
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030| **Whereas** There has been a striking overall increase in the Texas population over
031| the past decade requiring more higher education opportunities in the state.
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033| **Whereas** 925,000, or almost 90%, of all students that attend a higher education
034| institution go to state funded public schools.
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036| **Whereas** There are many problems that higher education institutions face due to
037| lack of funding including overcrowded classrooms, lack of available classes, high
038| student-faculty ratios, inability to maintain competitive faculty salaries,
039| facility maintenance negligence, and depleting student services.
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041| **Whereas** The lack of funding has impeded the University to rise in the U.S. News
042| and World Report rankings because factors such as faculty resources and general
043| financial resources are strongly considered.

044|
045| **Therefore Be It Resolved** Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin
046| encourages greater awareness of problems associated with low state appropriations.
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048| **Be It Further Resolved** Student Government encourages Members of the Texas
049| Legislature to allocate greater funds towards higher education in the future.
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051|

Footnotes

None

Comments

None

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