



Student Government

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

University of Colorado Student Government Legislative Council

January 23, 2014

80 LCR 03 SB14-0001 Support

Sponsored by:

Chris Schaeffbauer	CUSG President of Student Affairs
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Authored By:

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A Resolution in support of Colorado Senate Bill 14-001 (College Affordability Act)

Resolution History

Colorado currently ranks 49th in local and state support for higher education. Funding for

education, both for K-12 and for higher education has been severely neglected and has struggled to become a funding priority at the Capitol. As such, accessibility to higher education in Colorado is increasingly becoming a concern to both students and universities.

In November of 2013, Governor John Hickenlooper's 2014-2015 budget for higher education was presented to the joint budget committee (JBC) by Lieutenant Governor Joe Garcia and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education Chair Dick Kaufman. The proposed budget provided roughly \$100 million for higher education in the state of Colorado. \$40 million is intended for financial aid, specifically \$30 million for need-based grants, \$5 million for work-study, and \$5 million for merit-based grants. The additional \$60 million will be for operational costs. Of the operations allocation, the University of Colorado system would receive \$16.6 million, which would then be split among the campuses. In addition to the increased funding, a key component of this proposal is the tie between funding and tuition increases that it creates; that is, the funding comes attached to an agreement to raise tuition by no more than 6% in the next two fiscal years.

SB 14-001, also known as the College Affordability Act, has been introduced in the Senate and will be heard in the House Education Committee on Wednesday, January 29th. The bill encompasses all previously presented components of the budget recommendation for higher education.

Resolution Summary

University of Colorado Student Government is expressing support for the College Affordability Act and encourages state legislators to continue to look for ways to increase funding for higher education. In a time where funding for higher education has been particularly scarce, SB 14-001 provides much needed funding and attention for Colorado institutions and students.

Should this resolution pass, its authors **and** sponsors ~~and the members of the CUSG~~ pledge to publicize its benefits and support to the CU Board of Regents, our elected officials, and the public at large in their decision to support the proposed budget while advocating for additional funding.

Passage of this resolution will indicate to legislators the need for state assistance and funding for universities in Colorado. As student leaders, we have a responsibility to fight for what will benefit our fellow students, and state funding for higher education has a direct impact on the accessibility of our university to all students.

Whereas, CU Boulder students and CU Student Government support increased funding for higher education in Colorado;

Whereas, the current proposed budget presents a \$100 million increase for higher education in the state of Colorado, with \$40 million slated for financial aid and the remaining \$60 million to be used for institutional operating expenses;

Whereas, the proposed funding increase is dependent upon an agreement to cap tuition increases to six percent for the next two fiscal years;

Whereas, the University of Colorado Boulder's Flagship 2030 plan indicates ensuring access to attend CU Boulder by doubling merit and need-based financial aid within five years and to initiate a statewide dialogue on expanding access to Colorado higher education;

Whereas, tuition increases in past years have proved to be significant barriers when it comes to access to higher education at CU;

Whereas, universities are funded through a combination of tuition and state general fund dollars, an increase in state funding should correlate with decreasing tuition;

Whereas, the passage of the resolution has the potential to help the state of Colorado become a national leader in funding for education;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the University of Colorado Student Government that:

Section 1: It is the view of Legislative Council that SB 14-001 will help improve access to higher education in the state of Colorado. **Therefore** we urge legislators to vote in favor of this **bill's** passage.

Section 2: Legislative Council encourages legislators to continue looking for more sustainable ways to fund higher education and to increase the proposed funding levels for higher education.

Section 3: Legislative Council believes that tying increased funding to caps on tuition is an effective mechanism for keeping **tuition** low while still **maintaining** funding for institutions of higher education, we encourage the state to continue using this **approach** in the future

Section 4: Upon passage, this resolution will be distributed to the student body, Inter-Campus Student Forum, CU Board of Regents, CU Boulder administration, Joint Budget Committee of the State of Colorado, and media.

Section 5: This resolution shall take effect upon passage by the legislative council and upon either obtaining the signature of two Tri-Executives or the lapse of six days without action by the Tri-Executives.

Vote Count

01/23/2014	Amended to correct spelling errors	Acclamation
01/23/2014	Amended Resolution Summary	Acclamation
01/23/2014	Motion to pass by acclamation	Objection

01/23/2014

Call to question (vote to vote)

Acclamation

01/23/2014

Motion to pass special order

10-5-1

Motion fails — 2/3rds vote not achieved

Bill is approved on 1st reading, per Leg Council Bylaws

01/30/2014

Passed on 2nd reading

Acclamation



Chris Schaeffbauer
President of Student Affairs



Juedon Kebede
Legislative Council President



Ellie Roberts
President of Internal Affairs



Marco Dorado
President of External Affairs