

 **University of Colorado Student Government**

**Legislative Council**

**January 23, 2014 80 LCR 03 SB14-0001 Support**

**Sponsored by:**

**Chris Schaefbauer CUSG President of Student Affairs**

**Andy Hemphill Representative at Large**

**Brianna Majewski Representative-At-Large**

**Divya Reddy Representative-At-Large**

**Colin Wichman Representative-At-Large**

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**Catherine Bogart Journalism Senator**

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**Hldani Mensah-Dzomley Environmental Design Senator**

**Natalie Coleman Environmental Design Senator**

**Eden Rolland Law School Senator**

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**Authored By:**

**Ali Skewes-Cox CUSG Co-Director of Legislative Affairs**

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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**

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 President of Student Affairs Legislative Council President

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Ellie Roberts Marco Dorado

President of Internal Affairs President of External Affairs