March 21, 2018

We are writing on behalf of the [Kentucky Academy of Science](https://kyscience.org/), whose mission is to foster scientific discovery and understanding in Kentucky. We are the largest scientific society in Kentucky with over 4000 scientist and engineer members across the Commonwealth.

After reviewing the new version of HB 200 that passed the Kentucky Senate on March 20, 2018, we again **strongly oppose** further cuts to all levels of education, and we agree that [HB 200](http://www.lrc.ky.gov/recorddocuments/bill/18RS/HB200/bill.pdf) would be harmful to K-12 students, college and university students, college and university programs, Kentucky’s economy, among others. Our higher education institutions cannot withstand cuts of 6.25% after years of continued budget cuts.

While we appreciate communication from our members and some concessions on your part, the cuts are still drastic and diminish our ability to recruit and retain excellent scientists and engineers to work and study in Kentucky to stimulate the economy in areas of science and technology. This bill threatens our recent progress in science, technology, and education, and takes us back to a level that makes it difficult for us to compete with other states because it fails to raise the new revenue needed to help Kentucky prosper.

We cannot expect to do better as a state while cutting funding to vital investments at these levels. If anything, we should be **increasing** funding to grow our educated workforce and create and attract the leaders of today and tomorrow. Thank you for taking time to consider our concerns. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Respectfully,

Dr. Trent Garrison,

Co-Chair of Education and Advocacy, Kentucky Academy of Science

Dr. Kerrie McDaniel,

Co-Chair of Education and Advocacy, Kentucky Academy of Science

Dr. Jennifer Birriel,
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Amanda Fuller, Executive Director

Kentucky Academy of Science