



February 26, 2018

Dear Kentucky Legislator:

We are writing on behalf of the Kentucky Academy of Science, whose mission is to foster scientific discovery and understanding in Kentucky. We are the largest scientific society in Kentucky with approximately 4000 scientist and engineer members across the Commonwealth.

Our executive committee and membership of the Kentucky Academy of Science **strongly oppose** further cuts to all levels of education, and we agree that HB 200 would be very harmful to K-12 students, college and university students, college and university programs, and Kentucky's economy. These cuts 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.

As you are aware, House Bill 200 makes deep cuts in many essential programs and services, eliminating and impacting state funding for 70 programs including textbooks and many education programs. It slashes funding to our institutions of higher education, and fails to raise the new revenue needed to help Kentucky prosper. Below are examples of programs the bill eliminates and impacts (this is not a comprehensive list):

www.kyscience.org

727 W. Main St. • Louisville, KY 40202
859-227-2837

K-12 Education Programs and Other

- Textbooks
- Professional development
- Kentucky Teacher Internships
- Teacher's Professional Growth Fund
- Teacher Academy Program
- Teacher Recruitment and Retention Program
- Virtual learning Program
- Writing Programs
- Lexington Hearing and Speech Center
- Teach for America
- Appalachian Learning Disabled Tutoring Program
- Community Education Programs
- Environmental Education Council
- Commission on Women
- Arts Council Marketing Program
- Major cuts to Libraries
- Coal County Scholarship Program
- Lung Cancer Awareness
- Breast Cancer Screening Program
- Cervical Cancer Screening Program

Kentucky Higher Education Programs

- Heritage Land Conservation Fund
- Established Programs to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)
- Kentucky Science and Engineering Foundation (KSEF)
- Teacher scholarships
- Early Childhood Development Scholarships
- Professional Education Preparation
- Minority Student College Preparation
- Autism Training Center
- Agriculture at KCTCS
- Folk Art Center at Morehead
- Community Operations at ECU
- Center for Math at NKU
- University press at UK
- Transportation center at UK
- Center for Entrepreneurship at UK
- Kentucky Mesonet at WKU
- Lung Cancer Research Grants
- Mining Engineering Scholarships at UK
- Robinson Scholars at UK

In summary, the Kentucky Academy of Science **strongly opposes HB 200's** deep cuts to all levels of education.

Generating Revenue for Kentucky

Of course, a budget isn't just appropriations but also revenue. Kentucky's antiquated tax code has failed to keep up with the modern economy, combined with years of piecemeal tax breaks being over added without review of their effectiveness means we are left with \$13 billion in tax expenditures. We implore you to review and terminate **special interest tax breaks** that keep Kentucky from raising the revenue we need to invest adequately in education.

Companies frequently cite that decisions on relocation and expansion are based on a region's educated workforce. University research spins off into businesses that help to develop the state's economy. This retains and attracts a highly-desirable talent pool while providing high-paying jobs that depend on a strong educational background.

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.

Sincerely,

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,
President, Kentucky Academy of Science

Amanda Fuller, Executive Director
Kentucky Academy of Science