



Office of Jason Crowell State Senator

The Crowell Connection

Senator Jason Crowell proudly represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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Investing in Missouri Minds

This week the Senate's Education Committee heard my legislation proposing doubling the Bright Flight Scholarship (SB 662) amount from \$2,000 to \$4,000 annually. Created in 1987, Bright Flight provides collegiate scholarships to students that have a SAT or ACT score in the top 3% of scores for all Missouri students.

Bright Flight recipients receive the same amount today as they did back in 1987. At \$2,000, the scholarship is not insignificant, but funding needs to be added to this program to enhance the scholarship. Annual tuition at the University of Missouri was \$1,485 in 1987. Today an undergraduate student pays \$6,495. This means originally the scholarship was adequate to pay tuition, additional fees, and some books. Yet today, the scholarship covers less than a third of tuition.

The idea behind the scholarship was to encourage Missouri's best and brightest high school students to stay in Missouri for college. Missouri has excellent institutions of higher education that our brightest young citizens can attend. Universities are always in a competition to attract the brightest student. My fear is that out-of-state schools are luring these Missouri born students away from Missouri colleges and universities by offering more lucrative scholarships; with the result being Missouri loses her most precious resource.

Charlie from Cape Girardeau is a father of five. One of his daughters is a Bright Flight recipient and is attending Truman State University. She receives about 85% in scholarship and grant money- \$2,000 of which is Bright Flight money. Another daughter is a senior in high school and is eligible for the Bright Flight Scholarship due to her outstanding ACT score. I hope that she decides to go to an in-state school. However, I know that College is a big financial obligation, and while hope is nice, the reality is she would be much more likely to stay in state if the Bright Flight Scholarship received this boost.

“I will continue to fight for Missouri students to have access to higher education and empower students by investing in the development of their minds.”

Still being saddled with tens of thousands of dollars in student loans, I know all too well the high cost of education. That is why I will continue to fight for Missouri students to have access to higher education and empower students by investing in the development of their minds.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at:

jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

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