



*Nothing is politically right
that is morally wrong.*

MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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is the firmest friend of truth.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Higher Education Bill Making College More Affordable Moves Forward
Bill Passes Education Committee, Senate Democrats Flip-Flop Votes for District Projects

JEFFERSON CITY – A comprehensive measure that would help make college more affordable is one step closer to becoming law. The higher education legislative package, Senate Bill 389, limits increases in college tuition, expands scholarship opportunities and funding as well as builds world-class facilities on Missouri college campuses. The bill passed the Senate Education Committee this week and now moves to the full Senate for floor debate.

“The mechanisms and accountability to help limit increases in college tuition and to expand scholarships are still in this bill,” Nodler said. “Unfortunately, Senate Democrats voted against a bill that included all of the projects recommended by the Higher Education Coordinating Board and supported by Gov. Blunt.”

Nodler said six projects were added to the bill through amendments, which Democrats supported. Then Democrats voted against the amended bill with all the projects. A substitute bill passed the committee that did not include the six projects. Those six building projects are: Health Science Centers at both the University of Missouri-Columbia and the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Business Incubators at the University of Missouri-Columbia and the University of Missouri-Kansas City, the CORTEX Accelerator Facility at Harris-Stowe University, and the Center for Emerging Technologies II at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The projects totaled approximately \$113 million that would have been provided for by the partial sale of assets of the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority.

“It’s alarming and confusing that Democrats would vote to add projects that help the universities in their districts through amendments and then, in the same breath, turn around and vote against the overall bill that would move those projects forward,” Nodler said. “If they are not willing to stand up and fight for these projects that will improve the educational opportunities for their constituents I doubt they will be part of the final bill.”

The bill could be debated as early as next week before the full Senate.

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