

*Nothing is politically right  
that is morally wrong.*



*Free and fair discussion  
is the firmest friend of truth.*

MISSOURI SENATE  
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# STATEMENT

## **Sen. Scott Rupp Says Gov. Nixon's Higher Education "Dog and Pony Show Does Nothing for Missouri Students"**

"Nixon's deal with Missouri's public colleges and universities to freeze tuition is already state law and does nothing but re-affirm the tuition cap the Legislature passed two years ago - a bill he was opposed to becoming state law at the time.

In 2007, the Missouri Legislature passed [Senate Bill 389](#) that was signed by then Gov. Matt Blunt. The bill placed tuition caps on state higher education institutions.

If we were to base next year's tuition limits off the Consumer Price Index defined in state for the last 12 months, we would find that the CPI has been -.2 percent. Although we won't know the final CPI for this year until January, based on this current CPI number for the last 12 months, higher education couldn't raise tuition unless they remit 5 percent of their state appropriations.

I am disappointed that the governor has negotiated an agreement prematurely that has the potential to tie the hands of the Legislature and keep them from doing what is in the best interest of the taxpayers. This is especially alarming when economic indicators suggest that the CPI will probably be negative if not flat for the next year. If that is the case, then publicly funded higher education institutions could not raise tuition anyway under state law - unless they pay back 5 percent of their appropriations to the state.

I hope this unwise and premature side deal will not force massive cuts on the mentally challenged and children with developmental delays, as it gains nothing in return other than a reinforcement of state law that the Legislature passed two years ago."

-Sen. Scott T. Rupp  
2<sup>nd</sup> Senatorial District

[Summary from SB389](#): For institutions whose tuition is greater than the average tuition, the percent change in tuition cannot exceed the percent change of the consumer price index over the past year or zero, whichever is greater. For institutions whose tuition is less than the average tuition, the dollar increase in tuition cannot exceed the product of zero or the percent change in the consumer price index, whichever is greater, times the average tuition. If the tuition increase exceeds the limits set forth in this act, then such institution must remit to the board an amount equal to 5 percent of its current year state appropriation, which shall be deposited into the general revenue fund...

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