

*Nothing is politically right  
that is morally wrong.*



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

MISSOURI SENATE  
JEFFERSON CITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 17, 2009

# STATEMENT

## **Future Senate Appropriations Chair Sen. Rob Mayer Comments on Gov. Nixon's Higher Education Announcement**

"The Missouri Republican Senate's top priority has been to increase and maintain K-12 and higher education funding. I was disappointed last month in Governor Nixon's funding withholds in education that specifically cut transportation funding for K-12 education and eliminated the virtual school program for next semester.

I do appreciate and agree with the governor's efforts to build on legislation we passed in 2007 that requires publicly funded universities and colleges to hold the line on tuition costs. By keeping tuition at their present rate, Missouri students who attend our four-year public colleges and universities will better be able to afford to pursue their degree. It is also my hope that the agreement Governor Nixon entered into with our state's public higher education system presidents includes freezes in the ancillary costs that students incur while attending college, such as their room and board, meals and recreation fees among others.

While I appreciate the governor's end goal, I believe his announcement is premature. We have yet to determine the coming year's budget consensus revenue. That means we do not yet know how much money will even be in the state's bank account to fund the critical functions of state government.

At this time, not knowing what the budget will look like as a whole, I am withholding support or opposition of Governor Nixon's agreement with Missouri's public higher education system presidents and will do so until we come to a consensus on the revenue for next year and have the opportunity to analyze and review the budget as a whole."

-Sen. Rob Mayer  
Senate Appropriations Chairman  
Beginning Dec. 1, 2009

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