

State Universities Annuity Association



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To All University Members and Readers!

First, I want to thank all of you who contacted the members of the State Government Administration Committee regarding HB 403 – Repeal of the University 50% Tuition Waivers.

SUAA provided written testimony in opposition, but was actually called on to answer questions verbally about the tuition waivers. Rep. Jack Franks, who is not only the sponsor of this bill but also the chair of the State Government Administration Committee.

Rather than call HB 403 for a vote, Rep. Franks decided not to call HB 403 for a vote; instead turning the hearing into a subject matter discussion. It was stated that the committee members had already talked about this bill but they would now talk in open forum. It seemed most committee members were not in favor of the repeal, but I have seen committee members pass bills out of committee so there can be further discussion on the floor of the House or Senate in hopes of a failed vote.

These possibilities could be considered:

1. Allow people who are vested to continue
2. Those already receiving waivers could continue
3. All new hires would not receive the benefit
4. Consider a phase out
5. Consider a salary threshold
6. Limit number of children per employee
7. Set grade point average or the waiver has to be paid back

However, Rep. Franks wants the program repealed. He is very intense about it.

In 2014, there were 2,156 children who were provided university 50% tuition waivers. We know that these waivers actually generate revenue for the universities because 50% of the tuition still needs to be paid along with all fees and room and board. Since the universities are not at student capacity, there are plenty of seats in most all classes.

Rep. Franks would like to know exactly who is receiving the waivers – for instance, how many lower income vs how many of high income employees.

Rep. Franks is determined to pass this Repeal of the Tuition Waivers. He asked me to meet with him in his office on Thursday morning, which I did. He asked me to provide data by Monday. He is calling the HB 403 next week. I told him that any information I would provide would not show support for his repeal.

If any of you would like to respond to this email, please do so. If you were able to receive a 50% tuition waiver for your child, let me know. How many of your children were able to take advantage of this program?

For some of you, this program was a deal-maker. Please let me know about your stories so I can pass them along.

Thank you so much! I look forward to hearing from you!

SUAA continues to **OPPOSE** HB 403

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