

Sample Letters to the Editor

The most compelling letters will explain in your own words why the Access Missouri program is important and why all financially deserving Missouri students – regardless of where they choose to attend college – must continue to be eligible to receive state financial aid. The sample letters below are meant to only serve as a guide. Please **DO NOT COPY** them verbatim.

From a Parent

Dear Editor:

Going to college is about hope. It's about the hope that higher education will bring a brighter future.

Missouri supports the hopes of its students through the Access Missouri program, which provides need-based financial aid to all eligible Missouri students attending any eligible Missouri college or university.

Now that hope is threatened.

Gov. Nixon wants to eliminate state financial aid for Missouri students who attend independent colleges. Tens of thousands of students from Missouri's working families will be affected. Many students may be forced to drop out of college.

As the parent of a child receiving Access Missouri support, I am deeply disappointed that our governor would even consider balancing our state's budget on the backs of middle class families who are struggling to make ends meet. These are tough economic times for all of us. Prohibiting financially deserving students from receiving Access Missouri will hurt those who are working to improve their economic future.

Access Missouri is good for Missouri's families. It's good for Missouri's economy. Gov. Nixon should stand up for all Missouri students, regardless of where they chose to attend college. Leave Access Missouri funding alone.

NAME

HOMETOWN

From a Student

Dear Editor:

I am one of the 15,000 Missouri students who rely on Access Missouri funding to keep me in college.

[Explain why this funding is important to you, e.g. I am the first in my family to attend college.] Without this financial aid, I may not achieve my lifelong dream of becoming [talk about what you plan to do with your degree] here in Missouri.

Unfortunately, there is a misguided effort underway by Gov. Nixon to eliminate state financial aid for Missouri students who attend independent colleges and universities in our state. This is wrong. Access Missouri was created to help students with financial need like me to achieve a college education. Tens of thousands of students could be kicked out of college because they no longer have state aid.

The economy is in crisis. Unemployment is at a record high. Now is not the time to turn our backs on students who rely on need-based financial aid to achieve their dream of a college education. I'd rather be in a classroom preparing for my future than in an unemployment line.

Gov. Nixon and state lawmakers must protect Access Missouri financial aid funding so that a college education remains within reach for *all* Missouri students attending *any* Missouri college.

NAME

HOMETOWN