

Sample Letter to Gov. Nixon

The most compelling letters will explain in your own words why Access Missouri, Bright Flight and/or Marguerite Ross Barnett scholarships are important to you and why they must be protected for Missouri students who attend independent colleges and universities in our state. The sample letter below is meant to only serve as a guide. Please DO NOT copy it verbatim.

Dear Honorable Jeremiah Nixon:

I am writing you today to tell you how disappointed I am to learn that you have recommended eliminating all state-funded financial aid for Missouri students like me who attend an independent college or university in our state. I understand that these are tough economic times. It is particularly challenging for students of working and lower-income families. I respectfully hope that you will reconsider your position on this important issue.

I currently receive [insert dollar amount] from the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program and [insert dollar amount] from the Bright Flight merit-based scholarship program. I am grateful to you and to the members of the Missouri General Assembly for providing me the opportunity to attend [name of your college]. I worked hard in high school and am proud of my Bright Flight scholarship. It played a key role in my decision stay here in Missouri. Without it, I might not be able to fulfill my dream of a college education.

I am currently in my [first, second, third, final etc.]. I am studying [major] and hope to use my degree to become [career aspiration] once I graduate. I have lived in Missouri [all my life, for the past x years etc.]. It is gratifying to know that my home state is willing to invest in my future and wants me to build my future here.

Access Missouri, Bright Flight and the Marguerite Ross Barnett scholarships are a very wise investment in an important resource: Missouri's youth. These programs are helping tens of thousands of students from working and lower-income Missouri families earn a college education. This is necessary to attract the good-paying jobs that, in the end, will provide Missouri with tax revenues that far exceed the appropriation for these important financial aid programs.

I worry that your proposed cuts will prevent me from earning my degree and achieving my goal of becoming a productive, taxpaying Missouri citizen. We have many fine public colleges in our state. I chose to attend an independent college because I wanted to stay close to home. Small class sizes are another great advantage of [name of your college].

I understand that these are unprecedented economic times. My Access Missouri and Bright Flight scholarships are difference between me being able to afford to go to college and not being able to go at all. Please do not bailout the state budget on the backs of students. I respectfully request the courtesy of a reply.

Sincerely,

Your Name
Address/E-mail