

Sample Letter to Your Lawmaker

The most compelling letters will explain in your own words why the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program is important to you. The sample letter below is meant to only serve as a guide. Please DO NOT copy it verbatim.

Dear Representative/Senator (Last Name):

I live at [insert your address] in your Legislative district. I am writing today to ask you to join me in **supporting the new substitute versions of Senate Bill 784 and House Bill 1812.**

After hearings at which students like me testified about the importance of Access Missouri to our college futures, we are pleased that legislation that would have significantly harmed the Access Missouri program has been modified to include the following components:

- Removing the sunset clause that would otherwise terminate the program in 2013
- Achieve parity in maximum award amounts for all students with demonstrated financial need and requisite GPA attending a four-year institution in Missouri
- Establishment of new award amounts starting in 2014 so that students currently enrolled in college can continue to count on their current financial aid plan.

I currently receive an award from the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program, and it is a key part of my financial aid package. I am very grateful to you and the other members of the Missouri General Assembly for providing funding for Access Missouri, and I hope that you will support the new substitute versions of these bills.

I also ask you to join me to **oppose the efforts of Governor Nixon to eliminate state financial aid to students who choose to attend an independent college.** Independent institutions enroll 36 percent of students and grant 47 percent of degrees in Missouri annually. They are an important part of the education mix in our state and the only choice for those of us who live in some rural communities or who choose certain areas of study like architecture.

All Missouri tax-paying families who meet state aid criteria should be awarded state financial aid. No student should be penalized based on their choice of in-state college.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully request a reply.

Sincerely,

Your Name
Address/e-mail