

# R-2021-3

[A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PITT STATE APPROPRIATION]

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## STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

AUTHORED BY: The 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Student Government Board

19 APRIL 2022

President Ramanan introduced the following resolution: which was read for the first time and voted on.

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## A RESOLUTION

[THE PURPOSE OF THIS RESOLUTION IS TO CALL ON THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO PASS THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH]

1 WHEREAS, historically, state lawmakers have voted to pass Pitt's  
2 annual appropriations bill, which funds an in-state  
3 tuition discount for Pennsylvanians; this saves nearly  
4 17,000 Pitt students approximately \$15,000 each year.  
5 This money directly benefits Pennsylvania students  
6 and their families and has a drastic impact on  
7 improving the surrounding regions' economy and  
8 workforce with highly qualified university graduates.  
9 Without this in-state discount, the local talent who  
10 have been able to flourish at our university will  
11 dwindle, causing Pitt's power as an economic engine to  
12 be compromised;

13 WHEREAS, since its inception in 1787, the University of  
14 Pittsburgh has been one of the leading institutions in  
15 the nation, simultaneously fostering an environment  
16 for academic success while having an economic impact  
17 of \$4.2 billion dollars annually. Each year, 65% of Pitt

18 graduates stay in Pennsylvania and join a powerful  
19 alumni network—nearly 200,000 residents who are  
20 expected to generate more than \$560 billion for the  
21 state over the course of their careers. This is a benefit  
22 that the commonwealth cannot afford to lose;

23 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, this year, the University faces a serious  
24 threat of the in-state funding being eliminated. We  
25 implore the Pennsylvania General Assembly to vote in  
26 favor of Pitt’s state appropriation just as they intend to  
27 do with every other state-funded institution. It is  
28 disheartening that elected representatives would put  
29 personal gain and partisan politics ahead of the good  
30 of the commonwealth and the exceptional higher  
31 education this institution has provided for over 200  
32 years. This spiteful blocking is more than unheard of;  
33 it is precedent-setting and will impact our community,  
34 economy and commonwealth for generations to come;  
35 *now, therefore, be it*

36 WHEREAS, Pitt’s annual appropriation has a direct monetary  
37 impact on students—many of whom are represented in  
38 the General Assembly by those who wish to defund the  
39 appropriation. Without this funding, we risk losing  
40 countless bright and deserving potential future  
41 applicants from across the commonwealth to other out-  
42 of-state institutions. Furthermore, this hostile political  
43 stonewalling sends a pernicious message across the  
44 country: *that Pennsylvania does not value higher*  
45 *education; now, therefore, be it*

46 RESOLVED, on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022, the Student  
47 Government Board supports the resolution that with a  
48 faction of state lawmakers considering a vote against  
49 Pitt’s annual appropriation bill, and the looming  
50 threat of losing all state funding, we, the outgoing and  
51 incoming Student Government Board, express our  
52 official and steadfast support for the passage of Pitt’s  
53 annual appropriation. We, as representatives of our  
54 student body, hope state lawmakers take the voices of  
55 their constituents with seriousness and consider the

56 right course of action of ensuring Pitt's annual state  
57 appropriation is passed.; *and be it finally*  
58 RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be effective immediately  
59 upon adoption and shall reflect the changes shown in  
60 the attached opinion of the Student Government Board  
61 ADOPTED: this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022 by a vote of 7 for, 0 against,  
62 and 0 abstentions.

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Harshitha Ramanan, President  
University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board