

**GREG ROTHMAN, MEMBER  
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July 21, 2017

Mr. Frank T. Brogan  
Chancellor  
Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education  
2986 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-1201

Dear Chancellor Brogan:

I am writing this letter in opposition to the tuition increase at Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) facilities. I am disappointed to see that despite the two percent increase in funding for PASSHE in the state's 2017-2018 budget, equivalent to \$8.9 million increase from last year's budget, that the PASSHE Board of Governors have voted to increase tuition by another 3.5%.

We are all aware of the decreasing enrollment at these intuitions. The model of increasing tuition to offset lower admittance to PASSHE schools is counterproductive: increasing tuition prices actually discourages enrollment. A fifteen year study by Steven W. Hemelt and Dave E Marcotte, entitled *The Impact of Tuition Increases on Enrollment at Public Colleges and Universities* found supporting evidence that increases in tuition and fees lead to a decline in enrollment.

PASSHE schools are designed to be economically affordable to the citizens of Pennsylvania. Options for PASSHE to control its expenses must continue to be considered, rather than thrusting the cost on young, education-seeking individuals. Differentiating between student life expenditures and over-the-top upgrades to university life is important in maintaining an affordable price of tuition State schools are designed to allow students to receive a robust education at an affordable price. Consideration should be made for better management of your expenses.

A more streamlined State System of Higher Education must be achieved. Administrative reforms, such as reduction in the number of full time staff, or evaluation of compensation levels of the high ranking employees within the system, should be taken into account before a tuition increase is considered. All options must remain on the table, including resource sharing and consolidation of departments.

The focus of these institutions must remain on students and their education, not interest groups. I look forward to seeing changes implemented at PASSHE schools that will continue to provide reasonably priced, quality education to students of the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter. Should you need to reach me, please contact me at 717-975-2235 or at my district office at 1200 Camp Hill Bypass, Suite 202, Camp Hill, PA 17011.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'WGA', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

GREG ROTHMAN  
State Representative  
87<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

P.S. I wish you all the best in your retirement.