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June 16, 2014

The Honorable Jeremiah Wilson Nixon
Governor of Missouri
216 State Capitol
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

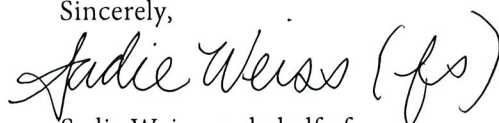
Dear Governor Nixon,

We are Education Policy Interns with The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis, and we are writing to express our support of Access Missouri and the increase of \$15 million in funding for the program that was approved by the legislature. As students, we understand the importance of need-based financial aid and without this type of assistance, we ourselves would not have completed our higher education. Access Missouri is a crucial part of Missouri's commitment to helping students earn a college degree. With the increase in funding for Access Missouri we can give more students the opportunity they deserve to continue their education.

In early May, the four of us walked the halls of the capitol and spoke with elected representatives from both parties and both chambers about Access Missouri and how important the program is for Missouri students. We were encouraged by the bipartisan support we found. While in the capitol, we also met with Dr. Nietzel and with Leroy Wade of the Missouri Department of Higher Education. Through our conversations we gained a better understanding of Missouri's priorities for higher education. We left Jefferson City encouraged about the future of our state and motivated to continue our work advocating for greater access to higher education.

The increase in funding for Access Missouri as approved in the appropriations bill is a step in the right direction for Missouri and its students. The economic success of Missouri depends on an educated workforce, and if we protect funding for Access Missouri, we will be better prepared for the future. We believe it is important to keep the \$15 million for Access Missouri in the budget. We can't afford to look back at this period in your leadership of the state as a misstep in our investment to degree completion and workforce development.

Sincerely,



Sadie Weiss, on behalf of

The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis Policy Interns:

Karissa Anderson, Karina Arango, Jamya Short, Sadie Weiss

Opening Doors to Education

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