

Spring 2018

S18RS SGR No. 1 (TOPS)

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STUDENT SENATE

ENROLLED

S18RS

SGR No. 1

BY SENATORS: PORCHE, BELL, & OLIVER

A RESOLUTION

TO STRONGLY URGE THE LOUISIANA STATE LEGISLATURE TO FULLY FUND THE TAYLOR OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS (TOPS) DURING THE 2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

- PARAGRAPH 1:** WHEREAS, THE STUDENTS OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND OF OTHER COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WITHIN THE STATE DEPEND ON THE TOPS PROGRAM TO ASSIST IN FUNDING THEIR EDUCATION; AND
- PARAGRAPH 2:** WHEREAS, NOT FUNDING THE TOPS PROGRAM WOULD AFFECT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO REMAIN IN LOUISIANA FOR THEIR COLLEGE EDUCATION, AS 51,478 STUDENTS RECEIVED TOPS DURING THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR; AND
- PARAGRAPH 3:** WHEREAS, THE LSU STUDENT SENATE DEEMS IT NECESSARY TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TOPS PROGRAM BECAUSE OF ITS ROLE ON LSU'S CAMPUS, AS OF THOSE STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED TOPS IN THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR, 14,471 STUDENTS (28%), ATTENDED LSU;¹ AND
- PARAGRAPH 4:** WHEREAS, IT IS IMPERATIVE TO CONTINUE INVESTING IN HIGHER EDUCATION, ESPECIALLY PROGRAMS THAT HELP RETAIN THE HIGHEST ACHIEVING STUDENTS WITHIN THE STATE; AND
- PARAGRAPH 5:** WHEREAS, AFTER THE 2017 CUTS THERE WAS A NOTICEABLE **DECREASE** IN APPLICATION RATES TO LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND AN **INCREASE** IN APPLICATION RATES OF UP TO 30 PERCENT FOR NEARBY, OUT-OF-STATE UNIVERSITIES; AND
- PARAGRAPH 6:** WHEREAS, TODAY'S SOCIETY IS PROGRESSING TOWARD A MORE EDUCATED MAJORITY IN WHICH HIGHER EDUCATION HAS BECOME A NECESSITY RATHER THAN AN OPTION.²

¹ This information is available from the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance at <https://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/Stats/TOPS2016-17.pdf>.

² This information is available on the United States Department of Education at <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/fact-sheet-focusing-higher-education-student-success>.

PARAGRAPH 7: THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE THAT THIS BODY, AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ENTIRE STUDENT POPULATION, SUPPORTS FIRM ACTION TOWARDS THE SUCCESS OF OUR FUTURES AND THE STABILITY OF THE TAYLOR OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS, AND

PARAGRAPH 8: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE TRANSMITTED TO ALL 105 REPRESENTATIVES AND 39 SENATORS OF THE LOUISIANA STATE LEGISLATURE AND JOHN BEL EDWARDS, GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA.

PARAGRAPH 9: THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY (ONE-HALF PLUS ONE) VOTE OF THE LSU STUDENT SENATE AND SIGNATURE BY THE PRESIDENT, UPON LAPSE OF TIME FOR PRESIDENTIAL ACTION, OR IF VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE SENATE, ON THE DATE OF SUCH APPROVAL.

APPROVED:

JAMES J. MICKLER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

DATE: _____

JASON J. BADEAUX
STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

DATE: _____