

33RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT

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Senate of Pennsylvania

**DOUG MASTRIANO
SENATOR**

July 25, 2022

Patrick Gallagher
Office of the Chancellor
University of Pittsburgh
4200 Fifth Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Brenda A. Allen
President, Office of the President
International Cultural Center (ICC)
Second Floor
Lincoln University, PA 19352

Neeli Bendapudi
Office of the President
The Pennsylvania State University
201 Old Main
University Park, PA 16802

Jason Wingard
President of Temple University
Second Floor, Sullivan Hall
1330 Polett Walk
Philadelphia, PA 19122

Dear Chancellor Gallagher and Presidents Allen, Bendapudi and Wingard:

I wanted to reach out regarding the planned tuition hikes on students recently announced by your respective universities.

As part of the Wolf administration's discretionary spending negotiated as part of the 2022-23 budget, the governor granted each state-related university a 5% funding increase, totaling more than \$40 million for general

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support and other outreach programs. This is in addition to the nearly \$600 million appropriated from the state budget.

With that in mind, I urge you to reconsider raising tuition for thousands of students from middle class families and to freeze the in-state tuition rate.

A study of anonymous tax records published in the New York Times in 2017 revealed the median family income for students at Penn State, University of Pittsburgh, Temple University and Lincoln University ranged from nearly \$46,000 to just under \$112,000. The proposed increases on these households could impact more than 122,000 students in the coming academic year.

Record-high inflation rates coupled with unsustainable student loan borrowing costs places the dream of a college degree further and further out of reach for many families. In recent years, in-state tuition rates have kept your programs affordable and competitive, attracting the brightest students from different backgrounds who often choose to stay here, pursue rewarding careers, and sustain Pennsylvania's economic prosperity for years to come.

I realize the economic forces at work have not spared higher education. Although a tuition hike offers a straightforward solution, it will cost Pennsylvania far more in the long run in lost economic opportunity.

Pennsylvania's families simply cannot afford a tuition hike in addition to the rising costs in other parts of the economy.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Mastriano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end.

Doug Mastriano
State Senator, 33rd District