

News Release

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Kansas Student Body Presidents File Amicus Curiae Brief Application on K-12 Funding Case

TOPEKA, Kan.-- On March 7, the Kansas Board of Regents' (KBOR) Students' Advisory Committee (SAC) filed an application to submit an *amicus curiae* brief to the Kansas Supreme Court on the *Gannon v. Kansas* case surrounding constitutional obligations for K-12 funding. This happens in the context of discussion in the 2017-2018 legislative session addressing the additional \$600 million requested by K-12 schools. "In light of the numerous references to the Kansas Board of Regents in Article 6 of the Constitution, the Students' Advisory Committee believes that the Constitution mandates that higher education be considered when evaluating the provision of financial support to public education," the application reads.

Jack Ayres, chair of the SAC, said if the application is accepted by the Kansas Supreme Court, it will allow the SAC to submit a brief. The brief will argue that the Kansas Constitution includes all levels of public education, not just K-12. "State support for higher education has declined over the last decade, forcing tuition rates to increase, increasing the economic burden on students. We ask the state Supreme Court to not forget about higher education when deliberating what is an adequate level of funding for education. We don't believe that additional funding for K-12 should come at the expense of higher education," Ayres said.

Mark P. Johnson, a partner at Dentons law firm in Kansas City, Missouri, submitted the application on behalf of the committee. All briefs are due to the court by April 30th, in order to allow the court to make a decision by June 30th. In the meantime, the SAC will work with the legislature to continue our advocacy for the restoration of FY16 funding.

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The Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) is the governing board of the state's public universities and the statewide coordinating board for the state's public higher education institutions.

The KBOR Students' Advisory Committee (SAC) consists of the student body presidents of the public four-year institutions in the state. SAC advises KBOR on student policy issues and concerns.

Their names and contact information are as follows:

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