

# MEMO - Urgent Legislative Outreach Needed

April 16, 2026

TO: Student, Faculty, Staff, Trustees, Leadership, Parents  
of **Regis University**

RE: Elimination of Colorado State Need-Based Financial Aid for Colorado Students  
Attending Nonpublic Institutions of Higher Education

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The state budget for fiscal year 2026-27 has **eliminated all state need-based aid for Colorado Students attending nonpublic institutions of higher education**. The [legal analysis by staff](#) concludes this action was not done in a manner that complies with statute.

## State law is clear about supporting all Colorado students regardless of choice of Colorado institution:

- In-state students attending private universities in Colorado are eligible to participate in Colorado Student Grant, State Work Study Award, and Graduate Need-Based Aid Award programs. (CRS 23-3.7-103)
- When providing Colorado students access to state grants, the General Assembly stated its intention to preserve “Colorado’s traditional diversity in higher education and access to a variety of educational opportunities for Coloradans of all backgrounds and resources” including at “Colorado ‘s nonpublic institutions of higher education.” (CRS 23-3.7-101)

To implement such a change, the General Assembly would have to pass legislation and change statute.

## YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED ASAP - *action could happen as quickly as Monday, April 20th*

- **REACH OUT:** To your institution’s legislative delegation, the legislative delegation for your place of residence, and members of the Joint Budget Committee (see contact information below).
- **ASK THEM** to eliminate any restriction for Colorado students to receive state need-based aid just because they are attending a nonpublic institution.
- **REMIND THEM:** (1) These dollars directly impact Colorado students with demonstrated financial need, impacting their ability to attend college and enter Colorado’s workforce. (2) The state should not treat Colorado students differently based on their Colorado institution of choice nor track these students into one type of institution. (3) Excluding Colorado students from state need-based aid based on which school they attend is not allowed by statute.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

→ How to find your [legislative delegation](#) for your permanent address (insert your address for your legislators).

### → Institution Legislative Delegations

LEGISLATOR/TITLE	PHONE	EMAIL
Representative Cecelia Espenoza (D)	303-866-2954	<a href="mailto:cecelia.espenoza.house@coleg.gov">cecelia.espenoza.house@coleg.gov</a>
Senator Julie Gonzales (D)	303-866-4862	<a href="mailto:julie.gonzales.senate@coleg.gov">julie.gonzales.senate@coleg.gov</a>

### → Joint Budget Committee Members

LEGISLATOR/TITLE	PHONE	EMAIL
Representative Emily Sirota (D)	303-866-2910	<a href="mailto:emily.sirota.house@coleg.gov">emily.sirota.house@coleg.gov</a>
Senator Jeff Bridges (D)	303-866-4846	<a href="mailto:jeff.bridges.senate@coleg.gov">jeff.bridges.senate@coleg.gov</a>

Representative Kyle Brown (D)	303-866-2920	<a href="mailto:kyle.brown.house@coleg.gov">kyle.brown.house@coleg.gov</a>
Senator Judy Amabile (D)	303-866-4872	<a href="mailto:judy.amabile.senate@coleg.gov">judy.amabile.senate@coleg.gov</a>
Senator Barbara Kirkmeyer (R)	303-866-4876	<a href="mailto:barbara.kirkmeyer.senate@coleg.gov">barbara.kirkmeyer.senate@coleg.gov</a>
Representative Rick Taggart (R)	303-866-3068	<a href="mailto:rick.taggart.house@coleg.gov">rick.taggart.house@coleg.gov</a>

## SAMPLE EMAIL OR PHONE STATEMENT

It is important that your communication comes in your own voice. Legislators respond best to personalized stories and impact, rather than a cut and paste of the same message. Here is an outline of a message to help you get started:

- **Identify Yourself:**
  - My name is (insert your name)
  - I am a (student/faculty member/staff member/trustee/parent) at Regis University,
  - My home address is...
  - If you are calling or emailing your personal legislative delegation, be sure to mention that you are a constituent from their district.
- **Why You Are Reaching Out:**
  - I am reaching out to ask you to eliminate any restrictions on state need-based financial aid for students at private institutions.
  - Insert a few sentences about your connection to state need-based financial aid – **having a personal narrative is the most impactful way you can influence legislators.**
    - if you are a **student** - talk about how state need-based financial aid has allowed you to choose an educational institution that serves your personal academic needs and career goals, and has allowed you the opportunity to attend school.
    - if you are a **parent** - talk about how your child choosing to attend a private institution of higher education should not bar them from receiving need-based financial aid dollars that are funded through your tax dollars.
    - if you are a **staff or faculty** member - talk about the importance of providing work study opportunities to students, or how financial strain on students can prevent students from fully participating in their education.
    - if you are a **trustee or leadership** - talk about how state need-based financial aid dollars increase the impact of institutional financial aid support, and that these state need-based financial aid dollars do not have an impact on the institution, but rather individual students who have demonstrated financial need.
- **Make the Ask:**
  - Please ensure Colorado students attending nonpublic institutions in Colorado are not disadvantaged by being restricted from access to state need-based aid. This funding is intended to support all Colorado students at Colorado colleges and universities.
  - This support is critical to over 800 Colorado students attending Regis University with demonstrated financial need.
  - Absent this support, (I/these students) may not be able to continue to pursue (my/their) education.
  - Colorado's nonpublic institutions play a critical role in helping Colorado students access and be successful with postsecondary education. Ultimately, this leads to supporting Colorado's workforce needs.
  - I ask for your commitment to ensuring Colorado students at all institutions of higher education have the ability to receive need-based financial aid if they have demonstrated financial need.

Thank you for your consideration,  
(First Name/Last Name/Email/Phone)