



## TEXAS FACULTY ASSOCIATION

*Affiliated with TSTA/NEA*

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### **Texas Faculty Association urges budget conferees to add another \$1.2 billion for higher education to final appropriations bill**

Texas Faculty Association President Pat Heintzelman released the following statement:

The Texas Faculty Association calls on the legislative budget conferees to add another \$1.2 billion to the Texas higher education budget — on top of what the House and the Senate already have approved — for the next two-year budget period.

The additional funding is critical for two reasons. First, our universities need it. And, second, it is necessary to meet federal requirements to avoid reductions in federal stimulus funding for our elementary and secondary public schools. The federal government imposed these “maintenance-of-effort” requirements to discourage state officials from using the additional federal funding to reduce state funding.

The state is seeking a federal waiver to avoid this additional spending, but that is the wrong thing to do, especially at a time when our institutions of higher education need the additional funding to cover extra expenses incurred during the pandemic. Without this additional appropriation of state funds, Texas higher education will suffer a spending cut from the last budget period.

Our university faculty and students need more resources, not less. And our elementary and secondary students and educators need the \$17.9 billion in federal stimulus funds for public education, which could be reduced if the Legislature doesn't meet these federal requirements for higher education funding.

The Texas Faculty Association is an affiliate of the Texas State Teachers Association.