

STATE OF COLORADO



DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Colorado Commission on Higher Education

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

D. Rico Munn
Executive Director

Press Release
August 6, 2010

Contact: Dawn Taylor Owens
(720) 264-8565

COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION PASSES RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE BALLOT MEASURES 60, 61 AND 101

Commissioners Cite Cuts to K-12 Education, Direct Affect on Higher Ed

Denver – The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) unanimously passed a resolution to oppose amendments 60, 61 and proposition 101, slated to be voted upon by Coloradans in November, at their regular meeting held on Aug. 5, 2010.

Proposition 101 would reduce fees and taxes throughout an extended time period. Amendment 60 would repeal voter-approved revenues over TABOR limits and require school districts to cut their mill levies in half by 2020. Amendment 61 would prohibit the state from borrowing and incurring debt and limit local governments ability to borrow, except when approved by voters.

According to a memo prepared by the Colorado Legislative Council, passage of the ballot measures would result in \$2.1 billion in lost revenue for the state, from \$6.9 billion to \$4.8 billion, and the need to increase funding for K-12 education by \$1.6 billion. The combined impacts indicate that K-12 education funding would require approximately 99 percent of the General Fund budget, leaving only \$38 million for all other departments, including higher ed, corrections, judicial, human services and others.

CCHE Vice Chair Hereford Percy singled out the cuts to the state's funding source for K-12 education as his primary source of concern and opposition to the measures.

“These figures clearly prove that there is a specific impact to K-12 education, and if K-12 continues to be under funded, there is a continued impact to higher ed,” said Percy. “It only makes sense for the commission to oppose these ballot measures.”

In addition to school boards, chambers of commerce and local governments throughout the state, some colleges and universities in Colorado have publicly opposed the ballot amendments, including the CU Board of Regents, the CSU Board of Governors, the Colorado State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education and Colorado Mountain College, with others expected to follow suit in the near future.

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