



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

65102

ERIC R. GREITENS  
GOVERNOR

RECEIVED  
JUN 29 2017  
CHIEF CLERK

P.O. Box 720  
(573) 751-3222

June 29, 2017

TO THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
99<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF MISSOURI

Herewith I return to you House Committee Substitute for House Concurrent Resolution 19  
entitled:

AN ACT

Relating to the financing of educational facilities.

I disapprove of House Committee Substitute for House Concurrent Resolution 19. My reasons for  
disapproval are as follows:

Missouri government must be a wise steward of our citizens' hard-earned tax dollars. It should  
contribute to the economic growth of our State through the implementation of sound fiscal policy,  
and it should operate to serve all Missourians as efficiently as possible. Unfortunately, our budget  
is unbalanced, revenue is down, and the costs of living and conducting business are rising. In  
order to balance our budget, hard choices have to be made.

If signed into law, House Committee Substitute for House Concurrent Resolution 19 could commit  
the State to funding 50% of a new conservatory building for the University of Missouri-Kansas  
City's ("UMKC") music and dance programs. The remainder of the cost of the building would be  
funded by private donations, grants, and other funds from the University of Missouri. This bill  
puts Missouri taxpayers on the hook for \$48 million in debt over the next decade. The interest on  
these bonds is estimated to be between \$7 million and \$10 million. Furthermore, there is no  
definite plan to cover the facility's operating expenses; therefore, the taxpayers are currently at  
risk for an estimated \$19 million in operating expenses in the next 10 years.

I came into office as a conservative outsider. I pledged to act as a budget hawk and protect the  
people's money. My administration asked leaders across government to do more with less taxpayer  
money, and to get better results for the people of Missouri. I urged the leaders of Missouri's  
universities to think and act differently, to prioritize, and to make tough decisions.

In a sign of their commitment to heeding this call, the President and the Board of Curators of the  
University of Missouri System announced that they will reject any additional taxpayer money to  
pay for the UMKC conservatory. Instead, university leaders have committed to develop a real,  
detailed plan to pay for the building with alternative means: either through private funds or by  
reprioritizing their current resources.

Accordingly, I veto this bill to protect Missouri taxpayers and to signal my support for the need for a real plan before the State makes any major capital investment. I cannot support a bill that blindly pledges taxpayer dollars, and certainly not when leaders in the university system have publicly acknowledged that no state funds should be used for this project. Our university leaders and the Kansas City community are ready to do this the right way. My administration is committed to changing the way business is done in Missouri.

In accordance with the above stated reasons for disapproval, I am returning House Committee Substitute for House Concurrent Resolution 19 without my approval.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Eric R. Greitens  
Governor