



# University of Pittsburgh

## *Department of Critical Care Medicine*

606 Scaife Hall  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15261  
Tel: 412 647-5387  
Fax: 412 647-8060  
E-mail: [pinskymr@upmc.edu](mailto:pinskymr@upmc.edu)

**Michael R. Pinsky, MD, CM, Dr hc, FCCP, FCCM**

*Professor*

Department of Critical Care Medicine, Bioengineering, Cardiovascular Diseases and Anesthesiology  
President, University of Pittsburgh Senate

25 April 2011

Dear Colleague,

I am writing you in both my role as your elected President of the University of Pittsburgh Senate and as a faculty member of the University of Pittsburgh for the past 30 years. I am sure you are aware that Governor Corbett has proposed a 50% reduction in the state appropriation to the University of Pittsburgh as part of his balanced budget for 2011-2012. The decreases in state support equal about 10% in the University's operating budget and if passed will profoundly undermine our University's effectiveness to carry out our mission. I urge you to write your State Representative, State Senator and the governor asking them to reconsider this proposed cut. In real terms if enacted as proposed it must assuredly impair the University's ability to sustain low cost quantity education for in-state residents as well as materially affecting all faculty, staff and their families directly and southwestern Pennsylvania indirectly in terms of loss of goods and services.

The governor's proposed budget specifically targets state support for higher education. This approach to both balancing the budget and creating jobs for Pennsylvania is both short sighted and simply wrong. The University of Pittsburgh is the number one economic growth engine for southwestern Pennsylvania in terms of job and new business creation and owing to its payroll one of the major sources for personal state income tax payers as well. Furthermore, if we wish to see more and better paying jobs created in Pennsylvania those jobs will be populated by graduates of institutions of higher learning, primarily in the fields of engineering, technology and health care. Thus, if the governor wants "jobs, jobs, jobs" as he so stated when he introduced his budget, he needs to support higher education, in general, and the University of Pittsburgh, in particular, as we have continually demonstrated our worth of the overall welfare of the state.

When writing your state representative, senator and the governor, please use personal stationary, not University letterhead. First list who you are and where you live in their district and then state your personal views on this important issue. You may use my arguments as listed above, write your own or use some of the major talking points present on the University of Pittsburgh website: <http://www.govtrel.pitt.edu/advocacynetwork/resources.html> that also can be used to identify who your representative and senators are, their office and e-mail addresses and other information. It is very important that you write your representatives yourselves for several reasons. First, because they are your elected representatives and they need to know what their constituents are feeling. Second, the more direct pressure our representatives feel from such letters and e-mails the more they will take these concerns seriously and weight them more than competing concerns that will almost assuredly be made by other interest groups. And finally because expressing your objections to these proposed cuts to University funding, if that is your opinion, is the right thing to do if we truly want to claim to have a participatory democracy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Pinsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Michael Pinsky, MD