

**Theresa Utton**

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**Subject:** FW: Budget cuts forward to appropriate offices

**From:** Keyes, Flo]

**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 4:10 PM

**To:** Theresa Utton

**Subject:** Budget cuts forward to appropriate offices

Dear Legislative Members,

I am aware that this letter should have been sent on Friday March 13th, but I hope you will still heed it today.

You want to cut 1% or \$830,000 from Higher Education in order to help balance the state budget. As a member of the Higher Education system and the grandmother of a young man about to begin college next year, I ask that you reconsider. Vermont is one of the lowest funded state college systems in the United States already; it is an embarrassment that the legislature is considering cutting that low-level of funding even further. This used to be a state which valued higher education; Senator George Aiken would be ashamed of what we are doing to the middle-class' ability to send children to college. If we, the faculty, could accept a 3-year wage-freeze to keep higher education affordable for Vermonters (which we did), the legislature can certainly find some other cost-cutting area to help Vermonters continue to afford college—perhaps by requiring that VSAC funds be used in Vermont or in a state with which Vermont has a reciprocity agreement rather than a state that takes our money and sends nothing back.

Flo Keyes

Poultney, VT