

## Testimony in Support of HB 3240

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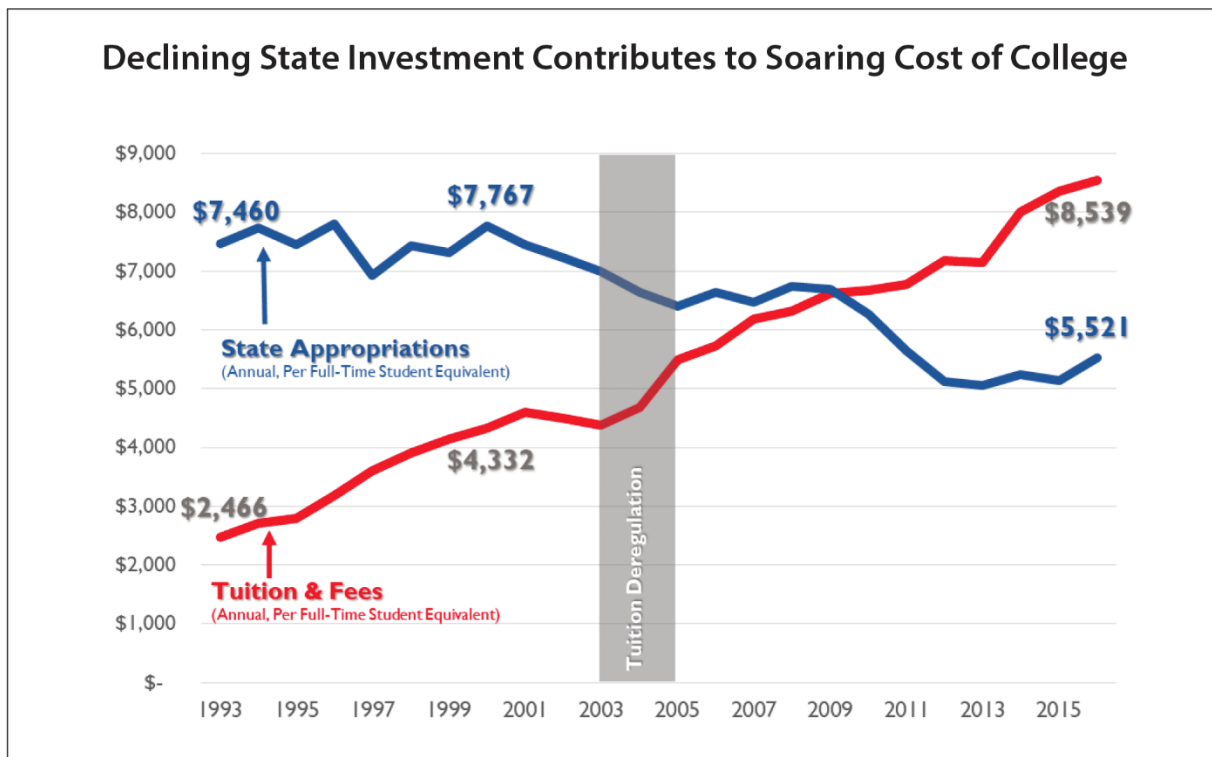
CPPP is an independent public policy organization that uses data and analysis to advocate for solutions that would allow Texans from all backgrounds to reach their full potential. CPPP envisions a Texas that is healthy, well educated, and financially secure. We believe addressing the college access, affordability, and student debt crisis in Texas is critical to reaching that vision.

### CPPP Supports HB 3240

The costs of college have been skyrocketing and have doubled over the past 15 years. College students now regularly face choices between taking on greater amounts of debt, working longer hours in part-time jobs, or going without food, books or housing to cover their growing college costs and living expenses to complete their education.

While the costs of college go well beyond tuition, a study of effective methods of tuition regulation would be a great step in the direction of exploring an avenue that could address this critical issue.

While tuition regulation may seem to be a foreign concept in the context of the current college affordability and student debt crisis, as we know, as recently as 2003, universities weren't allowed to charge Texas families unlimited tuition and fees.



Notes: Net tuition & fees compared to state appropriations for all Texas academic institutions per Full Time Student Equivalent (FTSE) in 2016 Dollars. The state appropriations included here are the amounts reported as state appropriations in the Sources and Uses Report and does not include state grants and contracts, research development funds, and constitutional funds received by institutions. The tuition and fee data included here are the amounts reported as net tuition and fees in the Sources and Uses Report, and do not include scholarships, exemptions & waivers offered by the institution from its revenue sources. Source: Sources and Uses and Public Information Reports.

## CENTER *for* PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

Institutions certainly need sufficient revenue to operate effectively and that is why a great element of the proposed study is the requirement that it consider both higher education affordability and accessibility along with institutional revenue needs.

### **Student Services must be Considered**

As written, HB 3240 requires a study of all topics relevant to the matter and CPPP would like to highlight the importance of one element of study being the possible impact on non-mandated student services, many of which serve students from low income, first generation, and historically underrepresented backgrounds.

We believe legislative measures to stop the out of control costs of college are necessary, but those measures should be studied and implemented in manner that would not result in cuts to services that are critical for students navigating and completing higher education in Texas.