

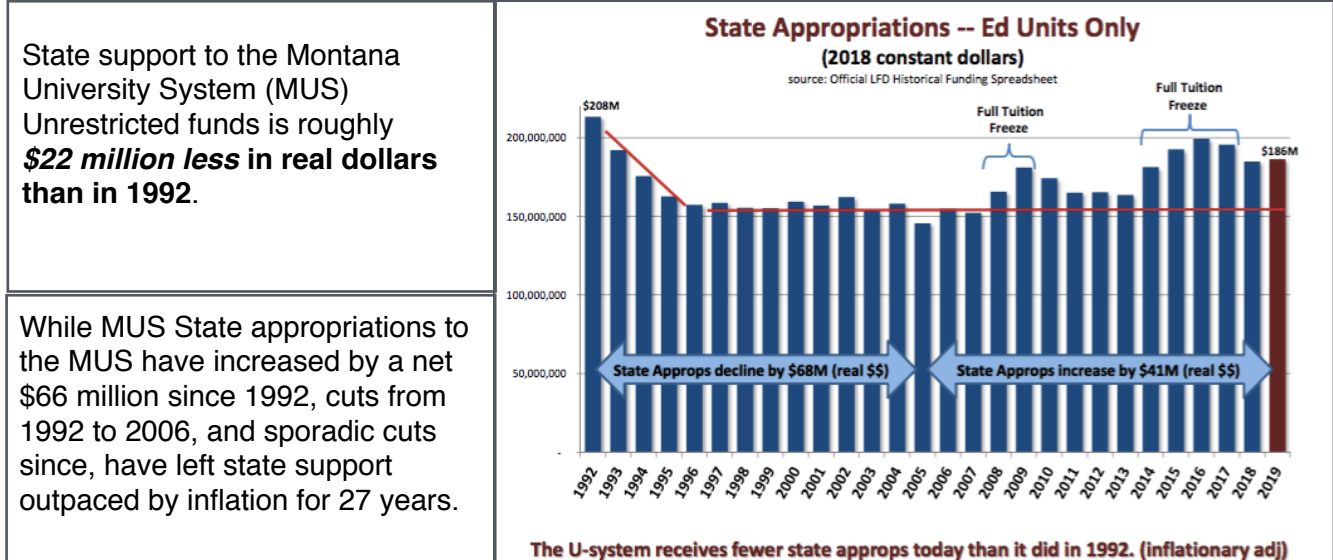


## Restoring State Investment in Montana Colleges & Universities

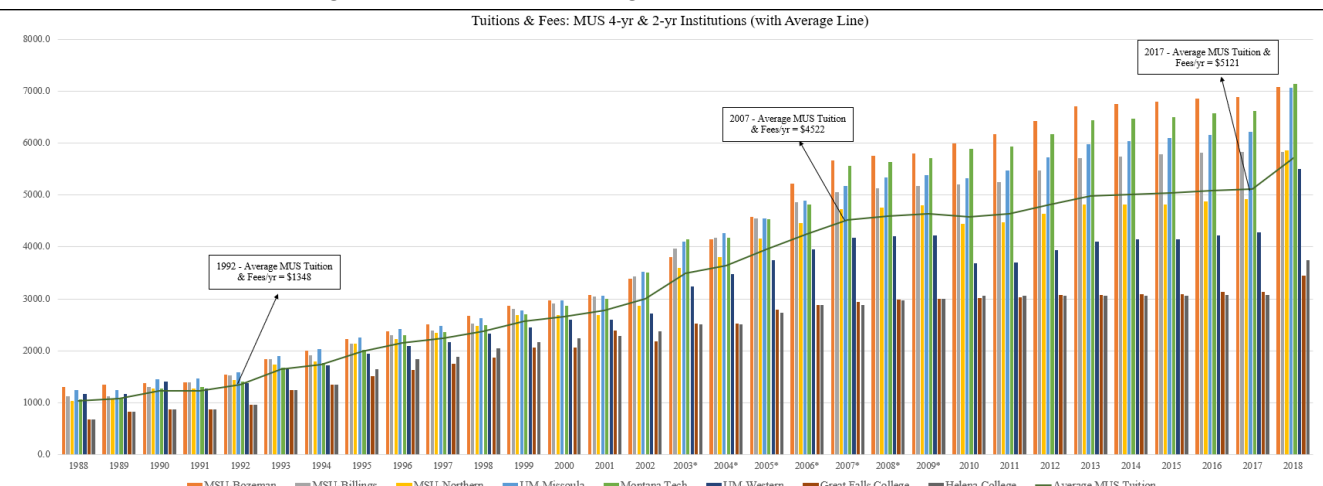
Montana students ask lawmakers to support investments in higher education *on par with those of the past* with **\$24 million for a funded tuition freeze** and **\$5 million to restore state-sponsored financial aid**.

This would place the MUS state appropriation *even*, in real dollars, with state support in 1992.

While decreased state support is only *part* of problems like **college affordability** and the **student debt crisis**, decreased state support for higher ed compounds the problem for Montana students & families.



**In Addition, \$5.3 million/yr of state need- and merit-based aid has been cut over the past 4 years**  
 Today, **60% of MT students borrow** to attend college,  
 and Montana borrowers graduate with an average of **\$28,000 in student debt**.



*Montana's economy can't afford to fund higher ed at lower levels than years past, and we can't afford to shift more costs for a college education to our students & families.*

Please support proposals to **invest \$24 million in the MUS funded tuition freeze** and restore **\$5 million of state-sponsored financial aid** for Montana students & families who need it most.