



Freedom Principle MO Blasts Big Government Republicans for Protecting Racist Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Programs in Bloated State Budget

For Immediate Release

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The Freedom Principle MO is blasting “Big Government Republicans” as they continue their addiction to federal government dollars to grow our state’s budget, including funding for racist Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity (DIE) programs. “These Big Government Republicans have sucker-punched voters in the face,” said Byron Keelin, President of the Freedom Principle MO. “Many of these state senators campaigned in 2022 on lowering taxes and reducing government spending. What was passed last week is nothing of the sort.”

The budget approved by the Senate restored DIE programs eliminated by the House of Representatives. According to some state senators, they restored the programs due to current state contracts. The following nine senators voted to put funding for the divisive programs back into the state budget:

- Senator Mike Bernskoetter (Dist. 6)
- Senator Justin Brown (Dist. 16)
- Senator Mike Cierpiort (Dist. 8)
- Senator Sandy Crawford (Dist. 28)
- Senator Fitzwater (Dist. 10)
- Senator Tony Luetkemeyer (Dist. 34)
- Senate Majority Floor Leader, Cindy O’Laughlin (Dist. 18)
- Senate Majority Leader, Caleb Rowden (Dist. 19)

“Most of these senators were just re-elected to a second term and therefore they believe they don’t have to be accountable for their actions,” said Keelin. “While they cannot run for re-election, some of these Big Government Republicans are planning to run for a statewide office. We want the voters to know these senators cannot be trusted when they say they campaign on conservative values.”

“Missouri’s budget keeps getting bigger and more intrusive into Missourian’s lives. When our state accepts money from the federal government, it comes with strings. This means more control over our children, more control over our healthcare, and forces Missourians to conform to the radical progressive agenda,” said Keelin.

Missouri’s budget has grown from \$23.6 billion in 2010 to \$50 billion now. This is more than a 240% increase in state spending. Missouri’s dependence on federal money to meet budgetary appropriations has grown from 30% of the budget in 2010 to 50% of the budget in 2022. “Big Government Republicans are setting up Missourians for a hard crash when the federal government gravy train runs dry,” said Keelin. “When this government gravy train derails Missouri taxpayers will be faced with huge tax increases, what will these Big Government Republicans do then?”

The Senate-approved budget will now head to a Conference Committee with the House to come to an agreement on the budget. The budget must be approved by Friday, May 5th. “We will be contacting House members to continue to fight to cut the budget and remove all the divisive DIE programs,” said Keelin. “We will continue to fight for taxpayers and putting Missourians First.”

The Freedom Principle MO is a pro-citizen, pro-Missouri First organization. We are a membership-based 501(c)4 organization, acting locally and state-wide, to protect our families and our constitutionally protected liberties. We are fighting for America. We are fighting for Missouri. We are fighting for you. For more information about the Freedom Principle MO visit our website at www.freedomprinciplemo.org.

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