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## Michigan Association of State Universities Urges Legislature to Remember Past Budget Cuts as it Works on Transportation Fix

*The following statement is from Daniel Hurley, CEO of the Michigan Association of State Universities*

As the Michigan Legislature focuses on repairing funding revenue shortfalls in our state's transportation system that add to overall cost of living in our state, it is vital that it recognize similar funding shortfalls facing higher education.

Student borrowing for college education today is at an all-time high primarily because of major state budget cuts to state universities over the past 15 years. With adjustments for inflation, more than \$1 billion has been shifted away from state higher education, including financial aid, during this time.

Taking money from the state's General Fund for transportation means students and their parents will continue to bear an increasing share of the cost of a higher education.

Since data shows the most important driver of higher incomes in a state for all workers is the number of college graduates living there, MASU urges lawmakers to take steps to support transportation without taking steps that impair Michigan's ability to prepare, attract and retain the college graduates driving today's knowledge economy.