

Statement from ABOR Chair Bill Ridenour Regarding the Attorney
General's Lawsuit

"We welcome the Arizona Attorney General's suit. We have long resisted filing a challenge against the state regarding the funding of universities and had chosen instead to work with Governor Ducey and the Arizona Legislature for a solution that would reduce the financial burden for students and their families. This suit will allow us to present the facts to a court of law and seek clarification of our constitutionally mandated obligation to provide "instruction as nearly free as possible." We can now address who will pay for that mandate.

Although we welcome the suit, we are disappointed in the attorney general's tactics. The announcement of his concerns, and his decision to sue the board over them, came as a surprise, which we first learned of through the news media. The board knew the attorney general was being pressured regarding DACA students, but he has never registered his concerns about the board, its performance or that of the university system.

The AG's lawsuit - while it makes for good headlines - does nothing to change the burden for students and their families. The suit is full of attacks, but offers no constructive remedies. The justice he seeks will not, and should not, be found at the courthouse. The challenges of rising college costs and student debt

