

SENATOR'S NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COMMUNICATION
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SENATE PRESIDENT CHAISSON'S RESPONSE
TO ROGER VILLERE'S MISINFORMATION
RE: SB 335

Senate Bill 335 is NOT a tax hike. Taxpayers who claim excess itemized deductions on their state income taxes, less than one-fourth of the taxpayers in the state, WILL NOT pay any more state income taxes next year than they did this year because of this measure. In fact ALL taxpayers will benefit from the \$345 million tax break as a result of the rollback of the Stelly Plan approved by the legislature last year. Senate Bill 335 DOES NOT impact that tax break. To suggest otherwise is not only misleading, but wrong!

Without this action, the quality of higher education in Louisiana will be irreparably harmed, setting the state back for decades and denying those same taxpayers, which Mr. Villere purports to protect, access to the quality higher education system they deserve. Even with the restoration of some state funding for higher education through Senate Bill 335, higher education still is taking its share of needed budget cuts - over \$100 million worth of cuts! The bridge funding provided in this bill will also give high education officials time to responsibly implement needed reforms and efficiencies in the state's higher education system. In fact reform plans are already underway.

Finally it is disconcerting that Chairman Villere continues to issue misleading and incorrect statements about Senate Bill 335, especially when he clearly has no plan of his own, other than "No".

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