

260113 JAC motion to defund WPM

Rep. John Bear: [00:00:00] You're welcome, director.

Don Richards-LSO: Good afternoon, members of the committee. Uh, the next agency for your consideration is Agency 67, the University of Wyoming. It is comprised of 11 units. The first unit appears on page 40, unit 67 0 1 based funding. This is also referred to as the block grant for the university.

Rep. John Bear: Are there any amendments on Unit 6, 7 0 1 Representative Pendergraft

Rep. Ken Pendergraft: Thank You, Mr. Chairman. First global Amendment would be to remove the Governor's rec,

the amount of \$1,698,084 with the intent of defunding Wyoming Public Radio.

Rep. John Bear: All right, is there a second? Second by Representative Smith discussion. Seeing none all is

Rep. Trey Sherwood: Mr. Chairman,

Rep. John Bear: representative Sherwood.

Rep. Trey Sherwood: Just again, for the folks, uh, at home, if we, if we, if the bringer of [00:01:00] that motion could give us some context on the reasoning, that would be much appreciated.

Thank you,

Rep. John Bear: representative Pendergraph. ,

Rep. Ken Pendergraft: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you Representative Sherwood for allowing me the opportunity to speak on this. It's no secret that at the federal level, A, a similar thing has been done up there with the Trump administration in taking public funds away, uh, from so-called public media.

They have removed the funds here within the state, and uh, we are following suit. It is just not. It is not the role of government. It is not the concept of government to have, uh, an ex a media extension like a Pravda. [00:02:00]

Government monies should go for government programs if Wyoming Public Radio, if NPR, if all of these elements are as good as they say they are. Let them compete on the free market with everybody else.

Rep. John Bear: Further discussion,

uh, Director Richards,

Don Richards-LSO: , Mr. Chairman, um, in addition to a decrease of this unit by the amount stated, 1.698 million, um, understanding. Intent here. Um, would you like a footnote that indicates no fund shall be expended on, or could they take money from elsewhere?

Rep. John Bear: Representative Pendergraft?

Rep. Ken Pendergraft: My preference would be no money shall be extended on period.

Rep. Trey Sherwood: Mr. Chairman. Just clarification on that. Yes. Um, are [00:03:00] we saying that they are not? Able to use any state funds that pass through UWs Block Grant, but if they have private funds available to them, they can still access those

Rep. John Bear: Representative Pendergraft.

Rep. Ken Pendergraft: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Certainly private funds are available. I would like to see, uh, these entities succeed on their own privately. I just want to remove any state monies. Any government monies from the, uh, from the package.

Rep. John Bear: Okay. I think, uh, we ran into something where other funds could include, uh, tuition, so you might wanna think about that in your, your motion or your, your, uh, your change to this funding.

So just a, just a thought. Any further discussion. [00:04:00]

Sen. Mike Gierau: Yes, Mr. Chairman,

Rep. John Bear: Senator Gierau.

Sen. Mike Gierau: Yeah. On and against. Um, once again, I understand the concept about using state dollars, but where you lose me is when you say things like Pravda, and lemme explain why, because then it leaves the impression that what you're doing is you're against it because of what they're saying.

Not the fact that they're saying it. Is a slippery slope. That was, we go down. So today we don't like public radio because of what public radio says, because we don't agree with it. Because that's what we think we're, they're saying something wrong or something. But where does it go? Where does it end from there?

Where do we, where do, where do we draw a line? Do we where, what line are we gonna move to next? And that's where, you know, as far as I'm concerned. Public radio is a place for, for a free exchange [00:05:00] of public ideas, just like a university is. And we're gonna be talking about that a lot this afternoon about stifling the free exchange of public ideas.

And so we're starting right off the top with it. So I just wanted to say this is what I'm, I'm for the free expression of public ideas. I am four. Freedom to express yourself and to do so in that open marketplace. And so I'm not so sure I understand about the role of government part, but then when you say that, you lost me.

So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Rep. John Bear: Any further discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor of representing RAF's Motion, please say aye. Aye. Those opposed?

Rep. Trey Sherwood: No.

Rep. John Bear: . Motion carries. Are there any other amendments to unit? 6 7
0 1 Representative pendergraft.

Rep. Ken Pendergraft: Thank you Mr. Chair.

We'd like to remove \$40 million [00:06:00] from the block grant.

Rep. John Bear: Okay. You wanna give some, any specific specificity to that?

Rep. Ken Pendergraft: I'm not sure what you mean by that question.

Rep. John Bear: Seconded by Haroldson. what colleges or,

Rep. Ken Pendergraft: yeah. Now that we've got a second, we'll go on with that. Um, one of the things you've heard brought out by several of us is this concept of zero-based budgeting. And what that implies is that we don't just start with the way we've always done things.

We take a step back and we prioritize. We only have so much money. To operate, and I'm talking globally along all the state agencies and all the things that need to be accomplished. We have, among other things, uh, the Wyoming Department of Transportation, which is for a long time.