JEFFERSON CITY — Higher education cuts would be felt on a broader scale than just college and university campuses, representatives of those schools told state lawmakers Monday.

Cuts to education funding would hurt the state's economy by reducing the number of skilled workers and making Missouri less competitive for attracting businesses, they told members of a House subcommittee on appropriations.

The hearing was held in the wake of an announcement by Gov. Eric Greitens calling for cuts in higher education funding, including more than $38 million from the University of Missouri System. Almost $20 million of that comes from MU.

Several university and college representatives reminded committee members that Greitens made a point in his State of the State address of emphasizing the importance of growing the Missouri economy and making a business-friendly state.

Shawn Strong, president of the State Technical College of Missouri, said schools like his are looking at increasing tuition to make up for a lack of state funding. Most of the students who graduate from the technical college enter fields including manufacturing and skilled trade, sectors that are proven to grow the economy, Strong said.

"If you had to ask me what programs I had to cut to reduce losses, it would be those programs that meet the most critical needs of manufacturers," Strong said, because they generate less revenue. "We can’t cut our way to being revenue neutral."
The technical college serves many low-income students, he said, and an increase in tuition would place a burden on them. The college is using $300,000 in reserves to make ends meet in the upcoming year, he said.

"I keep hearing Missouri needs a qualified workforce," Strong said. "We are a workforce developing engine. That is all we do. If workforce development is truly a priority of the state of Missouri, please consider developing in state tech and all the public institutions of higher education."

Many lawmakers have pointed to Medicaid as a major source of the state's budget shortfall, according to previous Missourian reporting. Lawmakers were told Monday that some of the education programs that may be at risk for being cut help reduce the Medicaid burden.

Show-Me ECHO — Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes — program, run by the MU Medical School, is dedicated to educating primary care physicians to increase the quality of healthcare in rural areas, said Rachel Mutrux, senior program director of telehealth.

The program costs the state $1.5 million, but saves $3.9 million in Medicaid, according to a testimony by Mutrux. The program also saves lives, she said, including three people with melanoma. Primary care physicians learned the proper way to screen for the disease, and they were able to catch the cancer in time, she said.

State Rep. Lyle Rowland, R-Cedar Creek, said that like "right to work," education is an incentive to make Missouri a business state.

"I think that’s one of the top five questions that any company wanting to move to Missouri is going to ask," Rowland said.

But he said it is also important to balance the state's budget.
Andrea Moravec, chief operating officer of College Bound, which helps low-income students starting in high school, stressed the importance of a good education for boosting economic growth. She said an education shouldn’t be based on the "birth lottery" and should be affordable.

Having more people with college degrees creates economic growth through new jobs and higher wages, Moravec said. She said an "increase in economic growth creates a larger tax base for Missouri."

Many who testified mentioned Missouri’s Big Goal for Higher Education, an initiative to have 60 percent of adults gain a college degree or certificate by 2025. Missouri is currently 10 percent behind its goal, and these cuts to higher education could make that goal harder to reach, they testified.


"You bury a generation in debt, it’s not just affecting them, it’s affecting their purchasing power," Kendrick said. "People are less able to afford homes and cars, or common goods. Then it affects the entire economy."

**Nursing homes need improvement in end-of-life directives: Study**

A new study highlights the need for better procedures for end-of-life directives in nursing homes.
Generated from News Bureau press release: **Nursing Homes Falling Behind with End-Of-Life Directives**

Jan. 17 (UPI) -- **A study from the University of Missouri School of Social Work suggests nursing homes need to give more attention to how advanced directives are used.**

"In a nursing home setting some providers use aggressive end-of-life care, even if it is not in a person's best interest or against a resident's wishes," Colleen Galambos, professor in the University of Missouri School of Social Work, said in a press release. "Evidence suggests that advance directives improve the dying experience for nursing home residents and decrease the cost of end-of-life care while honoring residents' expressed wishes about health care. However, at the national level only 65-70 percent of nursing home residents have advanced directives; that number is significantly less here in Missouri."

Advance directives, or living wills, are legal documents that allows a person to choose their treatment preferences if faced with a serious injury or illness that renders them unable to make decisions for themselves. These directives can include do not resuscitate, or DNR, orders in cases where a person in a nursing home chooses to not have any medical interventions to save their life in a medical emergency.

The study examined more than 1,800 medical records from nursing homes in the St. Louis, Mo., area. Roughly 50 percent of the records included advance directives but researchers found that many were hard to find in the patients' charts due to poor record keeping.
Galambos suggests that healthcare providers include a section in medical records specifically for advance directives and reinforce the importance of checking for advance directives.

"There is no reason for adults not to have an advance directive and most nursing home residents should have an advance directive on file to ensure that they receive the type of end-of-life care they desire," Galambos said. "People can enact an advance directive at age 18, which is a good time to start thinking about what their wishes would be during an emergency."

Galambos also encourages parents and adult children to talk about their healthcare wishes and end-of-life care before an emergency arises.

The study was published in Health and Social Work.

(Syndicated radio program, 366 stations nationwide)

NUCLEAR RESEARCH ON CORN ROOTWORM IN CORN PLANTS

January 23, 2017 By jharker@brownfieldnetwork.com Filed Under: Crops, Missouri, News

Generated from News Bureau press release: Fighting World Hunger: Researchers Use Nuclear Methods to Study Pest Resistance in Corn Plants
A University of Missouri plant biologist – through the use of radioactive isotopes – has led research that has discovered how some corn plants partially repair themselves from western corn rootworm damage. Richard Ferrieri, a research professor in the MU Interdisciplinary Plant Group, and an investigator at the MU Research Reactor (MURR), tells Brownfield Ag News – he’s adapted positron emission tomography – PET imaging used in the medical field – to trace a hormone in corn plants whose roots are under attack by corn rootworm, “We’ve altered the instrumentation a little bit so it’s more amenable to studying plants but we can look dynamically at the movement of radioactive-labeled molecules of interest in a living plant without destroying the plant.”

He tells Brownfield his research will help plant breeders target traits to strengthen the plant against corn rootworm attacks by building up the plant to repair itself, “By building up the biochemical pathways, it will allow the plant to build upon its ability to grow new roots faster than the old roots are being consumed.”

Corn rootworm causes more than a billion dollars in damage to U.S. corn crops and is a problem in corn production all over the world. Ferrieri says it’s imperative to come up with solutions for feeding the world with the exploding world population expectations.

Ferrieri recently came to the University of Missouri from the Department of Energy national laboratory where he conducted bio-energy research.
WASHINGTON - Senate Republicans say they’ll insure more Americans than President Barack Obama’s 2010 Affordable Care Act and do it more cheaply – by giving power to the states.

But just like the political divide that cleaves Congress, the states seem likely to look at the latest health care proposal with a partisan eye. In Republican-led Kansas, one lawmaker was quick to embrace the idea. But in blue-state California there was caution, as Senate Republicans unveiled a new replacement plan that its sponsors hope will draw support from across the aisle. It would allow states to make the choices on health care.

“I personally think that’s the way we should go,” said Kansas state Rep. Dan Hawkins, a Republican from Wichita, who chairs the the state House Health and Human Services Committee. “I think each state is different and for us to try and do one-size-fits-all across is part of the problem. Quite frankly, I think we could have handled it much better.”

But in California, where health advocates after President Donald Trump’s election continued to aggressively push enrollment in Medi-Cal and Covered California, and state officials have vowed not to let years of enrollment efforts go to waste, there were questions about the details. Legislative language was only released late Monday.

“For me, the absolute most important aspect of anything proposed at the federal level is the federal dollar and what’s going to be coming – is it less, or the same, or more?” said California state Sen. Ed Hernandez, D-Azusa, chairman of the California Senate Health Committee. “If they truly want to allow states to continue on within the (Affordable Care Act), then give us the same amount of money we’ve been receiving, and don’t block grant us, and we can make it work.”

“The Republicans offer the illusion of access, while denying actual health insurance coverage provided by the Affordable Care Act,” he said. “It creates the illusion that somehow those states that have enacted the Affordable Care Act will have the opportunity to continue to do so, but they’ll be denied the funds to do so. And for states that are offered an alternative approach, the illusion is the offer of access to health savings accounts that most Americans don’t make enough to save into in any meaningful way.”

Sens. Bill Cassidy, R-La. and Susan Collins, R-Maine, unveiled their Patient Freedom Act of 2017, suggesting it could attract bipartisan support. But Democrats, who have vowed not to
cooperate with efforts to dismantle former President Barack Obama’s signature health care law unless there is a viable alternative, said the plan falls well short of a full replacement plan.

“It is nearly impossible to keep the benefits of the Affordable Care Act without keeping the whole thing,” said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., the Senate minority leader. “Ultimately, this proposal is an empty facade that would create chaos – not care – for millions of Americans.”

Collins, one of several senators who have urged their colleagues to come up with a plan to replace the 2010 law as they prepare to dismantle it, said she’s been talking to colleagues on both sides of the aisle in hopes of picking up support.

“We have had expressions of interest,” she said, declining to name any lawmakers for fear of putting them “too far out front.”

She noted that Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., on the Senate floor had called the plan “much more reasonable” than other Republican proposals. But Durbin went on to say that the Senate could only have a “constructive conversation” if Republicans refuse to vote to repeal the law unless there is a replacement.

The Cassidy/Collins proposal, a Durbin spokesman said, is still “a very far cry from covering all the people the Affordable Care Act does in all the same ways.”

Sam Halabi, a professor for the University of Missouri law school, said the Patient Freedom Act may be politically popular but that it lacks the necessary details to determine whether it will succeed at making health care more affordable.

“It is a shrewd first move that looks like it’s keeping some important benefits of Obamacare while fulfilling this promise that Trump and the Republican party made to the American public to at least repeal the parts the public didn’t like,” Halabi said.

Halabi said the Patient Freedom Act never addresses the economic feasibility of repealing the individual mandate while preserving the prohibition on denying coverage due to a pre-existing condition.

Senate Republicans are looking to deliver on a campaign promise and repeal the law using a budget resolution that requires just a majority of senators. But replacing major parts of the legislation would require 60 Senate votes – and a number of Democrats.

Collins said the plan is “not perfect” and will require revisions, but she urged her fellow Republicans to ensure that they have plans to replace the health care law before they vote to repeal it.
“If we do not start putting specific legislation on the table that can be debated, refined, amended and enacted, then we will fail the American people,” she said.

The plan would keep some of the more popular elements of the 2010 law: It would keep coverage for mental health and substance abuse, allow young adults to stay on their parents’ plans until age 26 and prevent patients from losing their coverage because they have pre-existing conditions.

Democratic leaders from both the Senate and House met with President Barack Obama on Wednesday to discuss the future of his signature healthcare law.

But it would strip away the individual mandate that requires everyone to have insurance or pay a fine. Democrats say the plan would be unworkable without the mandate, which spreads risk by covering healthy people as well as those with illnesses.

Under the Collins/Cassidy plan, states would decide coverage for their residents. States could chose one of three options, including keeping the Affordable Care Mandate and its requirements. The state would continue to receive federal premium tax credits, cost-sharing subsidies, and Medicaid dollars.

A second option, which Collins said she would expect most states to embrace, would allow states to continue to receive funding equal to 95 percent of federal premium tax credits and cost-sharing subsidies, as well as a federal match for Medicaid expansion. States could choose to receive funds in various forms, including per beneficiary grants or refundable tax credits, but the money would be deposited in patient-directed health savings accounts.

A third option would allow the states to opt out entirely from the federal program and develop their own health care programs, without federal assistance.

The Congressional Budget Office, which has warned that repealing the health care law could lead to 18 million Americans losing insurance, has not reviewed the legislation, but Cassidy said he believes the plan would “bend the cost curve down” by seeing that states are managing costs, along with the federal government.

The bill does not repeal the taxes that pay for Obamacare, including one on medical devices.

“The revenue is essential,” Cassidy said. “If we repeal all the revenue now, that’s obviously going to create a hole.” He said the taxes could be repealed at a later date, possibly as part of larger tax reform bill.
“President Trump has said he wishes to cover all, take care of those with pre-existing conditions without mandates,” Cassidy said. “For that, you need revenue, bottom line.”

Sam Halabi, a professor for the University of Missouri law school, said the Patient Freedom Act may be politically popular but that it lacks the necessary details to determine whether it will succeed at making health care more affordable.

“It is a shrewd first move that looks like it’s keeping some important benefits of Obamacare while fulfilling this promise that Trump and the Republican party made to the American public to at least repeal the parts the public didn’t like,” Halabi said.

Halabi said the Patient Freedom Act never addresses the economic feasibility of repealing the individual mandate while preserving the prohibition on denying coverage due to a pre-existing condition.

But he’s also not sure about the expanded use of health savings accounts or HSAs.

“The real questions about the proposal are going to revolve around the structure of the health savings account alternatives, and how those are going to work for states,” he said.

Another unknown in the Collins and Cassidy proposal is how states would respond to having greater flexibility to create their own health care systems.

Halabi imagined a future where some states would choose to keep the Affordable Care Act while others developed an alternative model.

“It isn’t clear that states would compete on the things you would want them to compete on,” Halabi said. “So it could end up being that states would ultimately construct their health care systems to as to attract the fewest number of sick or non-wealthy patients.

“It’s just a big question,” he added, “as to what putting states in charge of the system, or block grants to states, is really going to look like and what conditions if any the federal government might impose.”
New Study Finds Missouri Women Are Earning Less than Men

Generated from a News Bureau expert pitch

Watch the story:

Mizzou Professor Invents Mug that Keeps Coffee at the Perfect Temp

Generated from News Bureau press release: New Coffee Mug Holds Liquids at Optimal Temps for 8 Hours

Listen to the story:
Mizzou Professor Invents Mug that Keeps Coffee at the Perfect Temp


Angela Davis' speech at MU to be live streamed

SCOTT SWAFFORD, 14 hrs ago

Generated from a News Bureau Media Advisory: [Mizzou Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with Lecture from Renowned Civil Rights Activist](http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=6d90da62-b8de-40f4-82ab-beb74ed91415)
COLUMBIA — Those who weren't lucky enough to land free tickets to Angela Davis' speech at the Missouri Theatre on Tuesday night will still have some options.

The speech will be live streamed to an overflow crowd at Keller Auditorium in MU’s Geological Sciences Building, which is immediately south of Peace Park and west of Francis Quadrangle. The auditorium seats about 350. No tickets are required, but seating will be first-come, first-served.

MU's Office of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity also will stream the event live online.

Davis, a distinguished professor emerita of history of consciousness at the University of California Santa Cruz, is scheduled to speak at the Missouri Theatre from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Davis taught at six other colleges and universities before joining the University of California Santa Cruz faculty 15 years ago. She is the author of eight books and a long-time social justice advocate. Most recently, she has sought to draw attention to "social problems associated with incarceration and the generalized criminalization of those communities that are most affected by poverty and racial discrimination," according to MU's event website.

The event also is sponsored by the Missouri Students Association and is among a series of campus events observing Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
Mizzou Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with Lecture from Renowned Civil Rights Activist

Generated from a News Bureau media advisory

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=9588ff0c-632a-461c-9442-0d7ef2027141

Columbia Board of Education to consider changes to recording, communication device policies

The Columbia Board of Education Policy Committee on Monday placed additions to policies governing audio and visual recording and staff use of communication devices on the agenda for the full school board’s Feb. 13 meeting.

Columbia Public Schools Deputy Superintendent Dana Clippard said changes to the audio and visual recording policy have been discussed in the committee since November 2014. She said there were many situations to consider.
“Even in a day of digital devices, it’s important that we observe confidentiality laws and that we respect the privacy of families and students,” Clippard said.

The proposed policy prohibits recording on district property by outside individuals or organizations without permission of the superintendent or principal. Exceptions include open public meetings, school performances and athletic events. The policy allows students to use video or audio recording except in restrooms and other locations where one would expect privacy; in classrooms, unless required by the teacher or principal; or in any way that would disrupt the school environment.

The proposed policy requires student teachers, who are university students pursuing a teaching certificate, to record video of their lessons before or after school and with students who have parental permission to participate.

Superintendent Peter Stiepleman said doing the lesson videos during the school day ties up district resources and that the district does not always have control of how the videos are used.

John Lannin, associate dean of academic affairs in the University of Missouri College of Education, said Missouri teacher certification does not require the videos but that some states do.

“It’s not a large number of students,” he said.

The proposed policy prohibits secretly recording someone without their knowledge or consent.

Clippard said a whistleblower who recorded video or audio would be in violation of the policy but that the school district would take the content of the recording into consideration in deciding whether the violator is punished.

The policy prohibits the use of drones on or over district property unless approved by school officials.

The proposed policy on staff use of communication devices focuses primarily on prohibiting their use while driving. The policy requires employees who are responsible for supervising students to avoid any use of a device that distracts them from that task.

“This is written to address cellphone usage, texting, the kinds of things that present real dangers” while driving, said CPS Chief Financial Officer Linda Quinley.

School bus drivers are not district employees but are required to follow district policies while on the job.
An Uncertain Future for Title IX-Compliance Consultants

By Sarah Brown January 24, 2017

For more than a decade, Brett Sokolow had tried to tell colleges that they had an obligation under Title IX to address sexual misconduct, but few listened. In the wake of the Education Department’s 2011 "Dear Colleague" letter, that all changed, and Mr. Sokolow’s consultancy took off.

The story of "Jackie" sent shock waves through the University of Virginia in November 2014. After the anonymous student’s account of being gang-raped at a
fraternity house was featured in an attention-grabbing *Rolling Stone* article that month, the university found itself in an uncomfortable spotlight.

When Jackie told UVa officials what had happened to her, the article claimed, they had done little more than present her with options for reporting it. Now, the university had to respond.

By the time Jackie’s story fell apart — *Rolling Stone* eventually retracted the article — UVa leaders had already made numerous public promises about reforming how they deal with sexual assault. And officials had paid outsiders handsomely for help with that work.

Three lawyers from the D.C.-based firm O'Melveny & Myers were paid $500,000, plus expenses and fees, to review how administrators had handled Jackie’s case. The university hired two more lawyers from the Philadelphia-based law firm Pepper Hamilton, at rates of $660 and $550 an hour, to help revise campus policies in the wake of the article and to advise on the university’s response to a continuing federal investigation. That investigation was examining whether UVa’s handling of sexual-assault cases had violated Title IX, the gender-equity law.

The university has retained Pepper Hamilton for that work and "related services" for the past two years, said Anthony de Bruyn, a UVa spokesman, in an email to *The Chronicle*.

Jackie’s accusation was an extreme example. But in recent years, hundreds of colleges have found themselves in the cross hairs of new expectations about how they should respond to sexual assault. The bar was raised by a now-famous "Dear Colleague" letter sent by the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights in 2011. Among other things, the letter spelled out for colleges their obligation under Title IX to respond promptly and equitably to sexual-misconduct reports.

No institution was fully prepared for such a sea change in what the federal government expected colleges to do about sexual assault. That created a lucrative opportunity for legal consultants and vendors. And dozens responded, assuring that they could help colleges navigate federal scrutiny and fight lawsuits and bad press.

Campuses typically don’t pay for just one service at a time. They might bring in one set of consultants that costs hundreds of dollars an hour to field requests from the Office for Civil Rights. Then they might turn to other consultants for on-campus Title IX workshops, which can cost thousands of dollars a day. And they
might send campus Title IX staff members to training sessions that usually cost more than $1,000 per person.

The experts have been criticized as being overpriced and ineffective, or as focusing on Title IX issues because the work pays well, not out of genuine concern for students’ well-being.

Many college officials, on the other hand, say they simply aren’t equipped to handle the broad scope of Title IX compliance without external assistance. In some situations — when policies and procedures need to be reviewed, for instance, or a thorny rape investigation needs to be conducted — an impartial perspective is critical, officials say.

But the cottage industry that has cropped up to help colleges find their way through enhanced scrutiny faces an uncertain future. After all, Title IX enforcement was ramped up by the Obama administration, which is no longer in charge.

Most observers say it’s unlikely that colleges will stop focusing on sexual-violence prevention and response. If President Trump’s Education Department takes a different approach to Title IX, however, colleges may have less incentive to pay for all of that outside help.

**Ahead of the Curve**

Peter F. Lake clearly remembers "the day I became a Title IX expert," he said.

About five years ago, a reporter called Mr. Lake, director of the Center for Excellence in Higher Education Law and Policy at Stetson University, for a quote. The reporter asked, Are you an expert on Title IX? "I said, OK, sure," Mr. Lake recalled. And that was pretty much that — though Mr. Lake knew he would have to earn his new title by educating himself and writing about the subject regularly.

Those efforts are paying off, literally and figuratively. In addition to his work as a tenured professor, Mr. Lake now develops the content for the [Title IX Compliance Institute](#), a training course. He also works with campuses as a Title IX consultant. He said he handles some of that work pro bono.

Back in 2011, few people knew what it meant to be a Title IX expert in the context of sexual assault. Consultants were often learning alongside college officials as the civil-rights office completed investigations and released guidance, said Karen M. Ibach, a partner with the Philadelphia-based law firm Montgomery McCracken.
"We did a lot of work looking at resolution agreements" that the office had made with individual colleges "to determine what OCR considered to be best practices," Ms. Ibach said.

Brett A. Sokolow was among a handful of legal experts out in front of Title IX issues before the 2011 "Dear Colleague" letter. He founded the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management, now the Ncherm Group, in 2000, and since then has built a high-profile career advising colleges on how to handle the bevy of risky situations that crop up on campuses.

For more than a decade, Mr. Sokolow said, he tried to tell colleges that they had an obligation under Title IX to address sexual misconduct. But few institutions would listen. Mr. Sokolow said they thought he was just trying to scare them to promote his business.

After the "Dear Colleague" letter came out, however, Mr. Sokolow’s phone started ringing.

Ncherm had a small staff at the time and couldn’t handle all of the colleges’ demands, Mr. Sokolow said. So he and his partners decided to focus on the prevention and education aspects of Title IX and sexual-violence issues. When campus clients have asked for help with federal investigations, Mr. Sokolow has referred some of them to Gina Maisto Smith and Leslie M. Gomez of Pepper Hamilton, who were similarly ahead of the curve on Title IX.

Ms. Smith and Ms. Gomez have become the go-to crisis managers for colleges embroiled in sexual-assault scandals — perhaps an investigation, a lawsuit, public outcry about a particular case, or all of the above. In addition to advising college officials as they work with the Office for Civil Rights, the lawyers have spent months on individual campuses helping to revise sexual-misconduct policies, as they did at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, or conducting sweeping reviews of institutional responses to sexual assault, as they did at Baylor University.

But most of their work isn’t crisis management, said Ms. Smith, who has worked on sexual-violence issues for three decades. "The majority of our campuses bring us in to conduct proactive reviews," she said.

Mr. Sokolow and Ms. Smith have become two of the most prominent voices on Title IX — and the most heavily scrutinized. Faculty members at Occidental College spoke out against Pepper Hamilton’s investigation of the institution’s
sexual-assault policies in 2014. The professors said Ms. Smith and Ms. Gomez had spent 18 months producing a one-sided report and never met with the student rape victims who had jointly filed a federal Title IX complaint against the college.

Another critic described Mr. Sokolow and his Ncherm partners as "Title IX profiteers." Sine Anahita, coordinator of the women’s- and gender-studies program at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, wrote in a 2014 blog post that most of the 61 colleges then under federal investigation for possible Title IX violations were Ncherm clients.

That fact, she wrote, suggested that campus officials were continuing to throw money at a firm that had already failed at Title IX compliance. (Mr. Sokolow said none of Ncherm's 50 long-term campus clients at the time had been put under Title IX investigation for work or cases that the firm had consulted on.)

Many campus officials defend the consultants. Christi Hurt, assistant vice president and chief of staff for student affairs at Chapel Hill, said in 2014 that Ms. Smith and Ms. Gomez had been essential in helping to reform the university’s approach to sexual-assault cases.

"They gave us a bird’s-eye view of what the law required, balanced with our needs as an individual university," Ms. Hurt told BuzzFeed News. The university paid the pair $160,000 over eight months.

A Lucrative Business

In the past, Mr. Sokolow said, the question among college officials grappling with sexual-assault issues had been: Should we hire a consultant? After the "Dear Colleague" letter, the question changed to: Which consultant should we hire?

That shift has been good for business at Ncherm, which has seen its staff double in size since 2011. On average, Mr. Sokolow said, his institutional Title IX clients pay Ncherm about $35,000 per year.

A separate group run by Mr. Sokolow, the Association of Title IX Administrators, or Atixa, was founded in 2011 and now has about 2,500 active members. Membership fees are $599 for individuals and $2,499 for institutions, and members receive access to, among other things, an extensive online library of training materials and templates for model policies.
In the early days of ramped-up Title IX enforcement, Mr. Lake said, he saw quite a few legal and consulting firms emerge that appeared motivated by profit, versus a passion for higher-education or sexual-violence issues. And despite a lack of expertise, it was easy for them to play off of colleges’ anxieties about Title IX, he added.

"The services were everything from the highest quality you could possibly imagine at a reasonable price," he said, "to outrageous services that made unsupportable claims, but people were buying them anyway."

**Sexual Assault Under Investigation**

Not only have there been plenty of law firms marketing their Title IX chops, Ms. Ibach said, but there have also been a growing number of companies offering Title IX training and programs related to compliance with other sexual-assault laws and guidelines. Among the players: CampusClarity, Campus Answers, and SafeColleges.

There is significant variation in how much colleges spend on external help with Title IX compliance. Mr. Lake likened it to shopping at the mall. Some campus officials glance at storefronts and spend a little, while others, he said, "pull out their black platinum card and buy everything they can find."

But it’s become clear, Mr. Lake said, that "if you don’t spend a certain amount, you’re asking for trouble."

Mr. Sokolow said some of his campus clients had chosen not to bring in outside counsel when the civil-rights office put them under investigation. Other institutions bring in three or more law firms to work on different parts of the response to the government — revising policies, pulling together documents that the department has requested, and more.

Mr. Sokolow estimated that a campus can defend itself against a Title IX inquiry for about $25,000, though "I’ve had clients who have spent $600,000."

Among the obligations outlined in recent federal guidance is that each institution must designate a Title IX coordinator. As that role has become professionalized, there has also been a growing need to educate both the coordinators and other campus employees with Title IX-related responsibilities. One of the most popular trainings is offered by Atixa. The group’s four-day training is $2,699 per person, plus travel, and can attract as many as 500 participants.
When campus officials are considering how much to spend on outside help with Title IX and sexual-violence prevention, it’s critical that they ask themselves certain questions, said L.B. Klein, who has consulted for campuses on gender-based violence issues.

Are we using this consultant as a stopgap to temporarily fill a need on the campus? she asked. Are we bringing in people who can teach us to do this work on our own? Or will we be paying for these services regularly for years to come?

As campus officials’ knowledge of Title IX becomes more sophisticated, Mr. Lake said, "they’re becoming better consumers." Administrators are starting to grasp what they can do on their own, what sort of assistance they can find free, and what they need to pay for.

Now, with Mr. Trump in the White House, "most would agree that regulation or enforcement will change, and standards will likely be tweaked," Ms. Ibach said. That shift could unfold in several different ways, any of which could affect the demand for services from firms like hers.

One possibility: The new administration stops emphasizing the current approach to Title IX enforcement, and the law becomes less of a priority for some colleges.

"There has to be some level of concern in the industry that the current go-go business model might not be as viable in the future," said Robb Jones, senior vice president and general counsel for claims management at United Educators, a risk-management and insurance firm.

Mr. Sokolow said there might be a silver lining in less-stringent Title IX enforcement. "Higher ed has had a gun to its head for six years now trying to do what OCR wants," he said, "versus trying to figure out the best compliance program for individual campuses."

But even if federal attention wanes, colleges probably won’t jettison their Title IX efforts overnight. Mr. Sokolow predicted that the vast majority of campuses will stay the course, in part because it’s hard to dismantle campus infrastructure.

"Changing a college or university is like turning a cruise ship," he said. That slow pace of change could be good news for the Title IX compliance industry — as could the growth of higher-education compliance requirements in general, Mr. Lake said. In addition to Title IX, he’s seen increased attention paid over the
last decade to enforcement of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the Americans With Disabilities Act, and other laws.

"Fundamentally, society has seemed to have lost a lot of trust in how we operate," Mr. Lake said of colleges. "The reality is, the typical university is overwhelmed with the time that needs to go into compliance work, and very few schools have the resources to do it" without external help, he said.

Besides, colleges have plenty of sexual-violence-related obligations beyond the series of "Dear Colleague" letters. There are the requirements of the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act, a series of amendments to the Clery Act that were passed as part of the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization, in 2013.

New state laws have also cropped up over the past half a decade. In California, for example, campuses are now required by law to use a "preponderance of the evidence" — or more likely than not — standard for sexual-assault cases, the same bar the Office for Civil Rights has encouraged. That’s the burden of proof used for civil cases, but a step below the "beyond a reasonable doubt" standard used in criminal trials.

Another possibility: The Trump administration continues to focus on Title IX, but takes enforcement in a different direction. It might, for instance, raise the recommended standard of proof to "beyond a reasonable doubt." Critics of the federal government’s current approach to Title IX say that is needed to protect the rights of accused students.

"If there’s a whole new set of guidelines that require colleges and universities to do things in a particular way, that’s another potential burden," Mr. Jones said. The same consultants, one imagines, would be ready to help colleges shoulder it.

Even if colleges were to lessen their attention on sexual assault, many of the consultants could simply turn to other risk-management or legal issues for a few years.

Mr. Lake predicts Mr. Trump’s Education Department could delve into issues of free speechperhaps taking aim at campus antidiscrimination policies, which some critics say are over broad. That could create a whole new compliance gap for consultants and vendors to fill.
Many colleges have looked to outside consultants for help with Title IX compliance and sexual-assault prevention over the past six years. Here are some of the services they often pay for:

**CAMPUS VISITS:** The Ncherm Group will hold workshops on your campus so that all employees with Title IX duties can get the skinny at once. The service starts at $6,500 per day.

**TITLE IX TRAINING:** One of the most popular courses for Title IX novices is offered by the Association of Title IX Administrators. Attending the four-day course costs $2,699 per person, plus travel expenses; the two-day version is $1,399.

**INVESTIGATIONS:** Some colleges choose to outsource their investigations of campus sexual-assault cases. The Ncherm Group has 16 investigators on its staff, and their rates start at about $350 an hour.

**INVESTIGATOR TRAINING:** Want to be trained to do investigations yourself? T9 Mastered, a firm founded in 2015 to train Title IX investigators, is holding a session in San Diego next week. The cost is $2,150 per person.

—Sarah Brown