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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

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VETO MESSAGE FROM THE
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
REGARDING HOUSE BILL 490 OF THE 2026 REGULAR SESSION

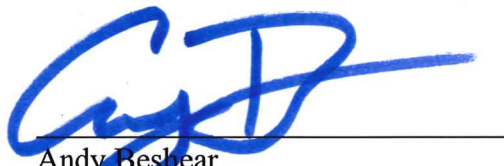
I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to the authority granted under section 88 of the Kentucky Constitution, do hereby veto the following:

House Bill 490 of the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

I am vetoing House Bill 490 because it would allow the boards of our public universities and Kentucky Community and Technical College System to fire faculty members, professors and teachers who have earned tenure for an ambiguous and vague new standard of "bona fide financial reasons." The bill does not properly define the fireable grounds for "bona fide financial reasons," only saying it may include financial exigency, low enrollment in a particular program or major or misalignment of revenue and costs in a college, department, program or major. As written, House Bill 490 may be misused to target people, programs and research based purely on subject, politics, or many other unconstitutional grounds, under the guise of economic necessity. This would likely violate contractual agreements that institutions have made to attract and retain talented educators.

For these reasons, I am vetoing House Bill 490.

This, the 13th day of April, 2026.



Andy Beshear
Governor