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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement from ABOR Chair Bill Ridenour Regarding Dismissal of Attorney General's Lawsuit Against the Board

"The Arizona Board of Regents is grateful for the decision today by the Superior Court to grant our motion to dismiss the Arizona Attorney General's lawsuit against the board on tuition. We have long believed that a lawsuit is not the answer.

Our No. 1 focus is ensuring Arizona students and families have access to an affordable, quality higher education at our public universities. We are on the right track, and while we have more work to do, we are proud that university tuition this year continues an ongoing, multi-year effort to slow tuition increases and improve predictability for students and families.

Apart from driving down tuition increases, we have trimmed and stabilized costs. Today we rank among the most cost-effective universities. That hard work means our students have lower than average debt, and nearly half graduate with no debt at all. In fact, we are ranked fourth nationally among low-debt states. Our high-quality degrees are competitively priced, and cost per student at Arizona's public universities is nearly 30 percent less than at our peer institutions.

The positive impact of public higher education in Arizona is greater than ever before, and state support is essential to ensure continued affordability and accessibility to our public universities.

On behalf of Arizona students, faculty, university staff and taxpayers, ABOR will continue its efforts to support and expand access to our world-class public university system."

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