



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANET NAPOLITANO
GOVERNOR

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May 1, 2008

The Honorable Jim Weiers
Speaker of the House
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: House Bill 2560; School Districts; Compliance; Withholding Monies

Dear Speaker Weiers:

Today I vetoed House Bill 2560, the bill that would have given the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction the power to withhold 10 percent of a school district's funding if the school district substantially and deliberately failed to comply with its statutory obligations under A.R.S. § 15-341, Chapter 5 of Title 15 or Chapter 7 of Title 15 after 90 days notice. The funding would be withheld as a penalty until the State Board of Education determined the school district had achieved compliance.

The State Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction currently have the power to issue strong penalties to school districts. They may already withhold 10 percent of funds if a school district has failed to comply with financial reporting requirements under the Uniform System of Financial Records. With the recent passage of House Bill 2711, they also have the power to take over entire school districts that are academically underperforming. These powers are more than sufficient.

For these and other reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 2560.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Napolitano".

Janet Napolitano
Governor

JN:LK

cc: The Honorable Timothy S. Bee
The Honorable Mark Anderson