

June 6, 2008

The Honorable Alfred W. Speer
Clerk of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Dear Mr. Speer:

House Bill No. 418 would amend R.S. 14:134.3 to provide that the crime of abuse of office "shall not prohibit or limit the ability of an elected official from responding to a request by his constituency or any citizen of state of Louisiana". While I support legislation that encourages elected officials to diligently represent their constituents, I am concerned that House Bill No. 418 may have the unintended consequence of providing a defense to a public servant who attempts to use a constituent request as a shield to wrongdoing. Additionally, I am satisfied that the intent of House Bill No. 418 is satisfied by the final sentence in the existing version of Section 134.3C - "Nothing in this Section shall prohibit or limit the ability of a public officer or public employee from performing his duties as authorized by law or as a condition of his employment or office."

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill No. 418 and hereby return it to the House of Representatives.

Very truly yours,

Bobby Jindal
Governor

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