

Bill Number HB2458  
Bill Veto Message

This is to advise you that on this date, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 and 12 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution to approve or object to legislation presented to me, I have VETOED House Bill 2458. House Bill 2458 is in direct conflict with a recent Oklahoma Supreme Court decision and therefore, is unconstitutional. In an 8-1 decision in 2006, the state's highest court ruled that the cost associated with certificates of merit placed an undue financial burden on citizens seeking access to justice and served as a barrier to their constitutional rights. I support efforts to reduce frivolous lawsuits, but because the court has already spoken clearly on the certificate of merit issue, enacting this measure would have been a wasteful exercise in futility.