



Office of the Governor

JIM GIBBONS
GOVERNOR

May 28, 2009

The Honorable Steven Horsford
Senate Majority Leader
Legislative Building
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

RE: Senate Bill 378 of the 75th Legislative Session

Dear Senator Horsford,

I am herewith forwarding to you, for filing within the constitutional time limit and without my approval, Senate Bill 378, which is entitled:

AN ACT relating to education; requiring the Department of Education to develop a plan for early childhood education; authorizing the Department to apply for money for certain prekindergarten programs; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senate Bill 378 would require the State Department of Education to create guidelines and standards for preschool curriculum and require that any state-funded preschool comply with such guidelines and standards.

Early childhood education is critical for mental and emotional development and school preparedness. However, this is an area that has traditionally been left to parents. I maintain my belief that parents know what's best for their children and should be given the authority to choose the correct educational style for their infants and toddlers.

Requiring all state-funded preschools to follow this set curriculum would also restrict parental choice. It would allow wealthy parents to make free choices about their young child's education but force those of less means into a program dictated by the

The Honorable Steven Horsford

May 28, 2009

Page 2

state. This establishes unequal access to educational choices for parents of varying income levels.

I also believe this legislation casts a broader net than intended. There is often a thin line between what people consider pre-kindergarten education and daycare. These two functions often exist within the same facility. Under this legislation, it's a possible that many of the daycare facilities that receive subsidies through the state's Child Care Assistance Program would be required to comply with the standards and guidelines developed by the Department of Education. I do not believe the potential for this has been fully considered.

For these reasons, I hereby exercise my constitutional grant of authority and veto Senate Bill 378.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Gibbons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" and last name "Gibbons" clearly legible. Below the signature, the name "JIM GIBBONS" is printed in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by the title "Governor" in a smaller, regular sans-serif font.

JIM GIBBONS
Governor

JG/kjc

Enclosure

Cc: The Honorable Barbara Buckley, Speaker of the Assembly (without enclosure)
The Honorable Ross Miller, Secretary of State (without enclosure)
Claire J. Clift, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure)
Susan Furlong Reil, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)
Brenda Erdoes, Esq., Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)