



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 24, 2013

The Honorable Sandra L. Pappas
President of the Senate
Room 120, State Capitol Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Madam President:

I have received, approved, signed, and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State Chapter 99, Senate File 1236, the Omnibus Higher Education Bill, with the exception of the line item vetoes listed below:

The following items of appropriation are vetoed for the reasons below:

- **Page 5, line 5.29:** A \$750,000 item of appropriation in FY 14 and a \$750,000 item of appropriation in FY15 for Teach for America.

Teach for America (TFA) is a well-established, national program with revenues totaling \$270 million for fiscal year 2011 (its most recent annual report). With total expenses of \$219 million, TFA's net assets increased by over \$50 million and now total over \$350 million. With those financial resources available, it is not clear why a \$1.5 million grant from the State of Minnesota is required to continue or expand the organization's work here.

My principal concern, however, is the way in which TFA was selected as the recipient of this grant. To my knowledge, no competitive grant program was established; no other applications were solicited; and no objective review was made by an independent panel of experts. Instead, the funds were inserted into the Senate's Higher Education bill, directed to this organization, and retained in the Conference Committee's report.

If the Legislature deems it is in our state's best interest to encourage programs like TFA, a formal grant program should be established within the Minnesota Department of Education, and all qualifying organizations should be allowed to apply for funding. The legislation should establish the goals for such a program and the results by which its effectiveness will be evaluated. This type of competitive grants process would be a fairer way to distribute public funds.

Sincerely,

Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: Senator Thomas M. Bakk, Senate Majority Leader
Senator David W. Hann, Senate Minority Leader
Senator Terri E. Bonoff
Representative Paul Thissen, Speaker of the House
Representative Kurt Daudt, House Minority Leader
Representative Gene Pelowski, Jr.
The Honorable Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State
Ms. JoAnne Zoff, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Albin A. Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives