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Office of the Governor

June 1, 2017

The Honorable Jason Frierson
Speaker of the Nevada Assembly
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

RE: Assembly Bill 188 of the 79th Legislative Session

Dear Speaker Frierson:

I am herewith forwarding to you, for filing within the constitutional time limit and without my approval, Assembly Bill 188 ("AB 188"), which is entitled:

AN ACT relating to education; reducing the minimum number of credit hours required per semester for eligibility for a grant awarded under the Silver State Opportunity Grant Program; creating certain exceptions to the credit hour requirement; providing that grant money received by colleges pursuant to the Program does not revert; and providing other matters properly related thereto.

The Silver State Opportunity Grant Program ("SSOGP") was approved and signed into law in 2015. It represents a historic commitment to serving Nevada's students, particularly students facing financial barriers to post-secondary education. The program is Nevada's first ever state-supported, need-based scholarship program, and after only two years, is fully subscribed with a waiting list of approximately 2,000 students, and has already extended the promise of a college education to more than 1,900 students. Based on the undeniably positive outcomes of this program, my Executive Budget for 2017-2019 includes doubling the amount of funds supporting SSOGP, from \$5 million to \$10 million over the biennium, which will eliminate the waiting list of eligible students who wish to participate. There is no question this program is a critical tool to promote student and economic success in Nevada.

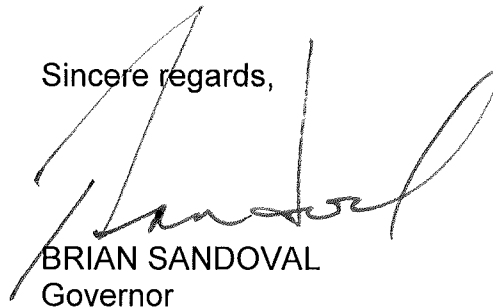
While AB188 is commendable in its attempt to expand SSOGP eligibility, it will also undeniably lead to unintended outcomes and discourage timely post-secondary completion. Data published by the Nevada System of Higher Education clearly shows that students who enroll in 15 credits during the first term of college are significantly more likely to finish a degree or certificate program on-time, while merely 3% of students who enroll in 12 or fewer credits complete their respective

degree or certificate program on-time. Thus, AB188 would undermine one of the primary goals behind the SSOGP, which is to provide an incentive for students to enroll in more credits per semester and finish their post-secondary education on time.

Moreover, the enhanced funding proposed by the Executive Budget for the coming biennium represents a funding level that will ensure every eligible student enrolled in 15 credits will be able to access the SSOGP. Expanding eligibility for students who are enrolled in 12 credits, and in some cases fewer than 12 credits, as AB188 proposes, would create a "waiting list" of students, including those who are seeking to enroll as full-time students. Consequently, some of the hardest-working students who have chosen to enroll in more credit hours per semester would be excluded from participating, despite their commitment and likelihood of completing their degree requirements on time.

For these reasons I veto AB188 and return it without my signature or approval.

Sincere regards,



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

Enclosure

cc: *The Honorable Mark Hutchison, President of the Senate (without enclosure)*
The Honorable Aaron Ford, Nevada State Senate Majority Leader (without enclosure)
The Honorable Barbara Cegavske, Nevada Secretary of State (without enclosure)
Claire J. Clift, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure)
Susan Furlong, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)
Brenda Erdoes, Esq., Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)