



STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JESSE VENTURA

130 State Capitol • 75 Constitution Avenue • Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 25, 1999

The Honorable Steve Sviggum
Speaker of the House of Representatives
463 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

(K-12)

Dear Speaker Sviggum:

It is my honor to inform you that I have received, approved, signed and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of the State, Chapter Number 241, House File Number 2333, with the following exceptions:

Page 90, article 2, section 60 subdivision 20, lines 5-9 (\$300,000 the first year for adolescent parenting grants). Funds for this program are also in the Family and Early Childhood bill, a more appropriate place for this funding.

Page 135, article 5, section 18, subdivision 10, lines 12-23 (\$145,000 the first year and \$175,000 the second year for the Minnesota Talented Youth Math Project). With the increased funding being made available for K-12 education, school districts that are working in cooperative ventures should be able to fund this and other similar projects. I appreciate the efforts of the Legislature to reserve state funding for statewide needs or purposes and for those few programs without a local funding source.

Page 146, article 6, section 14, subdivision 8, lines 7-16 (\$50,000 the first year for a magnet school grant to plan for an urban agricultural high school). I do not want to begin capital planning for an additional magnet school until a metro-wide plan has thoroughly examined the future development of these schools and the need for an urban agricultural high school specifically.

Page 200, article 9, section 53, subdivision 2, lines 4-11 (\$100,000 for a new teacher training improvement pilot program). I am vetoing this appropriation because I believe it is the responsibility of our higher education institutions to identify best practices and incorporate such methods into the training of our teachers. It also is time for our higher education systems to respond to the changing needs and expectations of the students who are their customers and the community businesses and institutions that will employ these students.

In closing, I will add my belief that the \$50 million contingent appropriation in this bill should be used to fully fund my class-size reduction initiative instead of

The Honorable Steve Sviggum

May 25, 1999

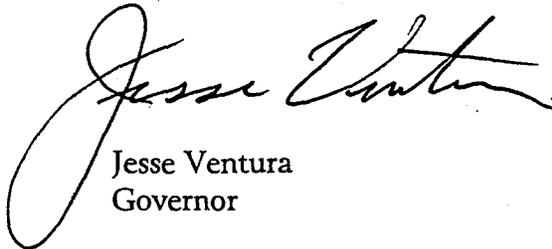
Page 2

adding it to the formula allowance. Smaller classes get results, and if the funds are available in the November forecast, they should be used to reduce class sizes by funding licensed classroom teachers.

I will also caution school districts to plan their budgets based on the enacted formula, not based on a contingent appropriation. Districts must be careful when negotiating teacher settlements to rely on ongoing resources that districts are certain to have. To those districts that have expressed support for programs that previously had categorical appropriations, I will remind them that they have every opportunity to fund those classroom curricula or services from their general education allocations, and should do so.

I also expect the few pilot projects that do receive state funding this biennium to be evaluated for their effectiveness. For the next budget period, they should either find replacement sources of funding, or be incorporated into existing agency budgets when their pilot period is ended, if they are deemed worthy of continued existence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse Ventura". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Jesse Ventura
Governor

c: Senator Allan Spear, President of the Senate
Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dick Day, Minority Leader
Representative Tom Pugh, Minority Leader
Chief Senate Author(s)
Chief House Author(s)
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of the Senate