May 29, 2001

The Honorable Steve Sviggum
Speaker of the House of Representatives
463 State Office Building

Dear Speaker Sviggum:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter Number 217, the omnibus family and early childhood education appropriations bill. As you are aware, this is the only omnibus spending bill passed during the regular session and I have concerns with both the legislative process and legislative product.

First and foremost, I am vetoing this bill because I have pledged that I would not sign any appropriations bills before a tax bill reaches my desk. My top priority continues to be tax reform, and I will require a completed tax bill before I put my signature on any of the spending bills.

A key early childhood initiative, forecasted consolidation of child care programs, was not included in the conference report, although both the House and Senate bills included consolidation. As you know, there are important policy and financial links between this bill and the health and human services bill. I still believe that consolidation is an important reform to support low-income working families. Because total child care needs and resources will be affected by decisions on extending welfare time limits, I encourage the coordination of the work of the family and early childhood education committee with the committee dealing with the health and human services bill.

Finally, the haste with which this agreement was rushed through—without time for even cursory review—resulted in numerous technical errors and omissions. As I have stated, I hope to avoid future problems like this by requiring a 48-hour review period prior to calling the special session. This is the best way to be sure that the bills that are enacted reflect the policies
that were intended.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura
Governor

cc: Senator Don Samuelson, President of the Senate
Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dick Day, Minority Leader
Representative Tom Pugh, Minority Leader
Chief Senate Author
Chief House Author
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State