May 16, 2009

The Honorable James Metzen
President of the Senate
322 State Capitol Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear President Metzen:

Please be advised that I have received, approved, signed, and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State, Chapter 95, Senate File 2083, with the exception of the following line-item vetoes:

1. Page 4, Lines 4.18-4.20: $250,000 each year in 2010 and 2011. This appropriation provides tuition scholarships to early childhood care and education providers. It is a worthy program, but since the program already receives $250,000 each year through the Department of Human Services in Laws of Minnesota, 2009, Chapter 79, Article 13, Sec. 11 Subd. 4(c), this appropriation was vetoed due to Minnesota’s budget challenges.

2. Page 5, lines 5.29-5.33: The Power of You Program, $1 million each year in 2010 and 2011. The program functioned with only privately donated funds until 2008. The program received $600,000 in one-time state funding in FY 2009. Expanding this program, which will serve only six Minnesota cities, is unfortunately not a viable option as Minnesota faces the largest budget deficit in state history.

3. Page 11, lines 11.3-11.6: Cook County Higher Education Board, $40,000 each year in 2010 and 2011. A county board is not the appropriate place to fund higher education. In addition, this program could be served with funds from
the dedicated taconite tax revenue in the Iron Range Higher Education District.

Sincerely,

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

cc: Representative Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Speaker of the House
    Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader
    Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader
    Senator Sandy Pappas
    Representative Marty Seifert, Minority Leader
    Representative Tom Rukavina
    Mr. Peter S. Wattson, Secretary of the Senate (Legislative)
    Mr. Albin Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
    Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State