

**m** OFFICE OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION

The Honorable Bud Nornes, Chair  
Higher Education and Career Readiness Committee  
471 State Office Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Michelle Fischbach, Chair  
Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee  
95 University Avenue W, Room 2113  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

April 7, 2017

Dear Conference Chairs Nornes and Fischbach,

I have been asked to remind conferees of the Governor's opposition to including policy language unrelated to the budget in your omnibus budget conference report (see page 3 of Governor's March 13th letter to Speaker Daudt and Leader Gazelka). He believes those items should travel separately in an omnibus policy bill coming out of this conference, or as separate bills, judged on their individual merits outside investment decisions. This will provide more **transparency** and **accountability** for decisions. Policy differences, unrelated to specific investments, could impede budget negotiations.

Assuming the conferees choose to honor the Governor's request to separate budget items and non-budget policy, he has asked that I forward comments regarding non-budget postsecondary policy provisions before the conference.

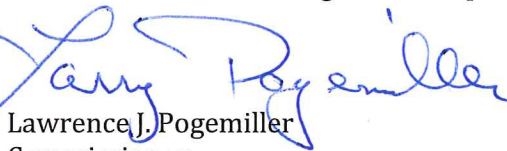
Thank you to the House for including the non-controversial OHE policy items the Governor recommends. They are intended to clarify and provide more transparency as well as modernize regarding current regulatory processes and procedures used at OHE. Several items provide additional flexibility and ease for institutions to meet necessary requirements.

The provision in both the House and Senate restricting OHE's authority to revoke registration, degree and name approval upon court adjudication of fraud or misrepresentation is troublesome and weakens the State's ability to protect students and may lead to additional costly and unnecessary litigation.

Provisions in the House on automatic admission, mandatory student fees, central office leases, and programming appear to be micromanaging in nature.

The Governor does not think new Legislative restrictions on fetal tissue research are useful or helpful.

The Office of Higher Education staff and I appreciate the excellent working relationship you and your talented and hardworking staff have provided as you process policy items.



Lawrence J. Pogemiller  
Commissioner  
Office of Higher Education

cc: Conferees  
Representative Gene Pelowski, Senator Gregory Clausen