

April 5, 2001

**SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 36**

The Honorable Richard Romero and  
Members of the Senate  
Executive-Legislative Building  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Honorable President and Members of the Senate:

I have this day reluctantly SIGNED SENATE BILL 71, as amended, enacted by the Forty-Fifth Legislature, First Session, 2001.

The Retiree Health Care Program, at its inception, was not well designed and provided insufficient funding for the rich plan design that was implemented. For over a decade, teachers and State employees have been forced to contribute to this plan with the promise of a benefit at retirement. Over the past several years, the Board has worked diligently to modify benefits and move more towards affordable plan design. While the Board can still implement modest changes, it is apparent additional revenues from the employee and employer are needed to insure future benefit availability.

Sincerely,

Gary E. Johnson  
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR:

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary of State

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Clerk of the Senate

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