

February 2, 2017

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 2

The Honorable Brian Egolf, Jr. Speaker and
Members of the New Mexico State House
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Honorable Speaker Egolf and Members of the House:

I have this day SIGNED HOUSE BILL 1, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-Third Legislature, First Session, 2017, except the following part or parts, item or items, which I have vetoed pursuant to Article IV, Section 22 of the Constitution of the State of New Mexico:

On page 6, I have vetoed all of lines 2 through 9.

Prior to the Special Session of 2016, I directed each of the agencies under the authority of the Governor to reduce spending and adjust the way they operate to make government smarter and leaner. I also urged the legislature, the judicial branch and other executive agencies not under the authority of the Governor to follow suit.

House Bill 1 shows that many in the legislature are not willing to lead by example. The legislature routinely overfunds itself, adds unused dollars to their legislative cash balances, and funds their own priorities with little oversight. Even now, in a time of exceptional hardship, the legislature has provided for funding far in excess of what it actually spent in the last 60-day session. Now is not the time for the legislature to focus on building their legislative cash balances.

As a former prosecutor who put criminals behind bars for over 25 years, I understand the importance of a fully functional judicial branch. That is why I have increased funding to the courts by 16 percent during my tenure as Governor. Because the legislature did not take serious action on the court's spending, debate it on either floor, or hold a hearing on how the courts can operate more efficiently, I will call a meeting of the State Board of Finance to address their supplemental funding request and work with them to find recurring savings. When this issue first arose, I was hopeful that legislative leadership would prevail. Because that did not occur, I will act.

Despite the lack of leadership and the blatant attempt to mask legislative spending, staff in the legislature deserve to get paid—not used in political games.

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I commend those in the House and Senate who stood up and raised concerns—who did not just accept the directive handed down by chamber bosses. They showed the leadership that all New Mexicans expect.

At the same time some legislators are calling for tax increases on New Mexico families, they repeatedly demonstrate a complete unwillingness to make serious cuts to legislative spending, to sweep excess funds from their taxpayer-funded legislative retirement plan, to forgo their pork project money, or to revert their own budget surpluses.

While they are very small, I appreciate the reductions that were made to the Legislative Session budget. There will be more opportunities during this session for the legislature to make cuts to their spending. I am confident that we can come together and all lead by example.

Respectfully yours,

Susana Martinez
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____, 2017

By _____
Secretary of State

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____, 2017

By _____
Chief Clerk of the House