

March 11, 2017

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 10

The Honorable Mary Kay Papen, President Pro Tempore and  
Members of the New Mexico State Senate  
State Capitol Building  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Honorable President Pro Tempore Papen and Members of the Senate:

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, Article IV, Section 22, I hereby VETO and return SENATE BILL 200, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-Third Legislature, First Session, 2017.

Senate Bill 200 is based on the premise that school employees are more effective when they hold additional credentials. In reality, there is no evidence that suggests that student outcomes improve when school employees are certified through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

It would be irresponsible to take money away from classrooms to pay permanent stipends to non-teaching staff like library media specialists and school counselors, without regard for their impact on student outcomes. SB 200 would cost our state an estimated additional \$137,297 each year at the expense of public school funding to other areas, which I am determined to protect, especially in this time of fiscal difficulty. This cost could also rise over time with limited ability to measure its return-on-investment.

As you know, I am dedicated to supporting our teachers, whose positive influence lasts well beyond a single school year as they prepare our students for lifelong success. The Public Education Department's Pay for Performance program is growing in impact and demand, receiving 27 applications in 2016. In response, the department awarded \$9.2 million to all 27 districts and charters. This method of rewarding effectiveness in the classroom recognizes some of our top-performing teachers for their hard work and dedication, and encourages all of our teachers to continue to work hard to make a difference for our students.

My Administration's other teacher supports include our successful mentoring program, Teachers Pursuing Excellence; stipends for teachers in hard-to-staff areas like rural regions of the state or content areas like science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); and debit cards to assist

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teachers in outfitting their classrooms for the new school year. These targeted investments will be measured for efficacy in the year ahead to assess return-on-investment.

I firmly believe in supporting our teachers who do a great good in our communities, but I am unable to sign SB 200, as it is not proven to be an effective tool in improving student outcomes.

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 Senate