



State of New Mexico

RECEIVED
2017 MAR 30 PM 6:14
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

Susana Martinez
Governor

March 30, 2017

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 26

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 269, enacted by the Fifty-Third Legislature, First Session, 2017.

I have always fought to ensure that all New Mexicans—regardless of their gender, race or religion—be treated with the utmost dignity and respect. I have promoted policies aimed at ensuring that minorities have an equal opportunity to succeed and achieve their dreams.

However, I cannot support a bill that would place such a tremendous burden on our state agencies without any assurance that the bill would actually identify or reduce institutionalized racism in the workplace. SB 269 would ultimately impose an unfunded mandate on our state agencies. Disclosure of a prospective employee's race or ethnicity is currently optional under the state hiring process. Accordingly, attempting to determine if institutional racism exists within a system that cannot require disclosure of races would prove to be an unreliable indicator as to the prevalence of institutional racism in New Mexico and the appropriate remedies that would be needed to address this issue.

While this bill would attempt to quantify minorities serving in state government, the sponsor has actually blocked several Hispanics from serving in the highest levels of state governance by refusing to hold confirmation hearings for Regents.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "SMartinez".

Susana Martinez
Governor

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 26
The Honorable Mary Kay Papen
March 30, 2017
Page 2

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: 6:14 a.m. p.m.
Date: March 30 2017 By Mary Kay Papen
Secretary of State

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.
Date: _____, 2017 By _____
Chief Clerk of the Senate