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Office of the Governor

June 15, 2011

The Honorable Ross Miller
Secretary of State
Capitol Building
101 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

RE: Assembly Bill 546 of the 76th Legislative Session

Dear Secretary Miller:

I am herewith forwarding to you, for filing within the constitutional time limit and without my approval, Assembly Bill 546, which is entitled:

AN ACT relating to children; making various changes to provisions governing early childhood care and education; providing for the establishment by statute of the Early Childhood Advisory Council; requiring certain training of persons who are employed in early childhood care; requiring annual reports concerning such training to be submitted to the Department of Education and the Legislative Committee on education; requiring the Board for Child Care to adopt regulations establishing requirements for courses of training in child care for employees of a child care facility; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

This bill has merit, particularly as it draws attention to the importance of early childhood learning as it relates to later success in school. The bill codifies in statute an existing Advisory Council formed by Executive Order of a prior administration; the bill also establishes needed collaboration between the State Department of Education and the State Department of Health and Human Services with regard to early childhood care and education.

However, the bill also places new training and reporting responsibilities on licensed child care facilities and those facilities which receive reimbursement from the Program for Child Care and Development administered by the Division of Welfare and Supportive

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Services. In fact, the "continuing training in child care...must include, without limitation, the annual completion by each employee of not less than 24 hours of such training, not less than 16 hours of which must be training relating to early childhood development" and standards to be adopted pursuant to this bill. Such a standard sets a new, overly high bar for small businesses in the child care industry. The cost of this annual training would either be passed through to consumers, many of whom cannot afford to pay more for their child care, or born by employees, many of whom work for relatively low wages. It could also result in decreased wages for child care workers. Moreover, the bill's requirement of training in "early childhood development" overlooks a more pressing need for training in the area of infant and toddler care.

Therefore, because this bill makes it more difficult for private business to succeed at a time when affordable child care is of utmost importance to Nevadans, and because the training requirements reflected in the bill do not target the most pressing areas of need, I exercise my constitutional grant of authority to veto AB 546 and return it to you without my signature and without my approval.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Sandoval", written in a cursive style.

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

Enclosure

cc: *The Honorable Brian Krolicki, President of the Senate (without enclosure)*
 David A. Byerman, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure)
 Susan Furlong, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)
 Brenda Erdoes, Esq., Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)