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Office of the Governor

May 26, 2017

The Honorable Aaron Ford Nevada State Senate Majority Leader The Nevada Legislature 401 South Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701

RE: Senate Bill 173 of the 79th Legislative Session

Dear Leader Ford:

I am herewith forwarding to you, for filing within the constitutional time limit and without my approval, Senate Bill 173 ("SB 173"), which is entitled:

AN ACT relating to education; revising provisions concerning the applicability of prevailing wage requirements and certain building standards and requirements to construction projects relating to achievement charter schools; and providing other matters properly related thereto.

During the 2015 Legislative Session, the Legislature approved comprehensive and foundational reforms designed to expand educational opportunities and promote greater student achievement for all of Nevada's learners. The Achievement School District was, and continues to be, a key component of that comprehensive effort to fundamentally reform education across Nevada. The establishment of the Achievement School District introduced a heightened level of attention and accountability on behalf of the State's most chronically underperforming schools, resulting in expanded opportunities for students to achieve their fullest potential and pursue success in the classroom and beyond.

While the goals behind SB173 may be laudable, this legislation will unquestionably result in higher construction costs for school facilities that need every available tool to improve performance and foster student success. Current law exempts achievement school facilities from prevailing wage requirements. This exemption reflects a policy decision to extend as much support as possible to Nevada's underperforming schools by reducing barriers, financial and otherwise, that may act as impediments to their improvement efforts. By eliminating the

prevailing wage exemption for Achievement School District facilities, SB 173 would simply make it more difficult for these institutions to fully leverage their resources in a way that affords the maximum benefits for the students they serve.

For these reasons, I veto this bill and return it without my signature or approval.

Sincere regards,

BRIAN SANDOVAL

Governor

Enclosure

The Honorable Mark Hutchison, President of the Senate (without enclosure)
The Honorable Jason Frierson, Speaker of the Nevada Assembly (without enclosure)
The Honorable Barbara Cegavske, Nevada Secretary of State (without enclosure)
Claire J. Clift, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure)
Susan Furlong, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)
Brenda Erdoes, Esq., Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)