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## Office of the Governor

June 9, 2025

The Honorable Francisco Aguilar  
Nevada Secretary of State  
401 South Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

**Re: Senate Bill 156 of the 83rd Legislative Session**

Dear Secretary of State Aguilar:

I am forwarding to you, for filing within the time limit set forth in the Nevada Constitution and without my approval, Senate Bill 156 ("SB 156"), which is titled as follows:

AN ACT relating to firearm safety; requiring the appointment of a Special Counsel for the Prevention of Gun Violence by the Attorney General; setting forth the powers and duties of the Special Counsel; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

While reducing gun violence is an important goal, SB 156 takes the wrong approach. Embedding a Special Counsel within the Attorney General's Office—an elected, politically-oriented position—risks turning a public safety initiative into a political tool. By granting this office broad authority over data collection, policy advising, and grant distribution, the bill opens the door to selective interpretation and ideological influence over firearms policy. Additionally, the absence of clearly defined limits for the Special Counsel's role raises the risk of unchecked expansion and administrative overreach in shaping gun-related policies.

A more neutral, public health-oriented agency would be better suited to lead such efforts without the risk of politicization. Preserving public trust—and constitutional rights—requires that we address gun violence through nonpartisan, balanced means.

Because SB 156 injects too much political influence into an issue that demands careful, sensitive, and impartial treatment, I cannot support it.

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

Respectfully submitted,



JOE LOMBARDO  
*Governor of Nevada*

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Stavros Anthony, President of the Senate (without enclosure)  
The Honorable Nicole Cannizzaro, Senate Majority Leader (without enclosure)  
The Honorable Steve Yeager, Speaker of the Assembly (without enclosure)  
Brendan Bucy, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure)  
Bonnie Borda Hoffercker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)  
Diane Thornton, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Director (without enclosure)  
Asher Killian, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)