

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 30, 2007

The Honorable Representative Margaret Kelliher
Speaker of the House
Minnesota House of Representatives
463 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Statement of Item Veto, Chapter 144, House File 1063

Dear Representative Kelliher:

I have received, approved, signed and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State, Chapter 144, House File 1063, with the exception of the following line-item vetoes:

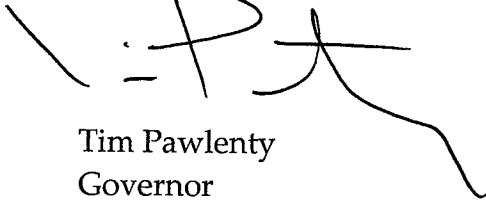
1. Page 6, lines 6.17 – 6.23: A \$100,000 appropriation each year in Chapter 144, Article 1, Section 3 must be transferred to the Loan Repayment Assistance Program Inc., ("LRAP") for loan repayment assistance awards to attorneys who enter "public interest law." LRAP was created in 1991 by law students and legal organizations. For more than 15 years, it administered a loan repayment program without direct funding from Minnesota taxpayers. Minnesota's legal community should continue its commitment to LRAP and its financial support of their loan forgiveness program.

Although I support programs that offer assistance for attorneys who provide legal services to low-income and disadvantaged individuals, the LRAP Program broadly defines "Public Interest Law" and is not limited to attorneys providing services to low-income and disadvantaged individuals. I am also concerned that the current LRAP program criteria would not ensure that state taxpayer funds would be used to provide loan assistance to attorneys who are working in Minnesota. The use of state funds needs to be targeted to attorneys who are actually working to provide legal services to poor and disadvantaged Minnesotans. As drafted, this appropriation would become part of the higher education

base budget. Before this occurs, the need for state funding (as opposed to continued support from the legal community) and the targeting of state funds to serve disadvantaged Minnesotans should be addressed.

2. Page 6 and 7, lines 6.24 – 7.8: A \$50,000 appropriation in fiscal year 2008 in Chapter 144, Article 1, Section 3 for the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars for a pilot program for scholarships for students enrolling in a Minnesota four-year college or university beginning in the fall semester of 2007. I support the concept of internships. However, Minnesota's many universities and colleges are currently working with private organizations to set-up internships for students without a direct state appropriation. This program creates a duplicative process.

Sincerely,



Tim Pawlenty
Governor

cc: Senator James Metzen, President of the Senate
Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader
Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader
Senator Sandra Pappas
Representative Marty Seifert, Minority Leader
Representative Tom Rukavina
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Al Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State