

March 10, 2010

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 103

The Honorable Timothy Z. Jennings
President Pro Tempore
New Mexico Senate
State Capitol Bldg.
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Honorable President Pro Tempore:

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, Article IV, Section 22, I hereby VETO and return SENATE BILL 165, which was enacted during the Forty-Ninth Legislature, Second Session, 2010.

Signature of this bill would have delayed by one year the data reporting and annual accounting requirements established under the New Mexico School Athletics Equity Act. Moreover, signature would delay by one year, until 2012, the report required of the Public Education Department and submitted to the Governor and Legislature. That report will include important recommendations on how to increase gender equity in school athletics in New Mexico's public schools.

I signed the New Mexico School Athletics Equity Act in 2009 because I recognized the many positive effects that participation in school athletics bring to girls and young women in the State's public schools. While the number of girls participating in school sports has increased since the U.S. Congress enacted Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1973, the collection and reporting of data required by the New Mexico School Athletics Equity Act will assist our schools to ensure compliance with the federal law, identify any existing inequities, and provide to the Governor and Legislature real recommendations on how to address any inequities.

Accordingly, signature of this bill is not appropriate at this time.

Respectfully yours,

Bill Richardson
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR:

Time: _____ a.m./p.m.
Date: _____ 2010

by:

Chief Clerk of the Senate

Time: _____ a.m./p.m.
Date: _____ 2010

by:

Secretary of State