

April 7, 2015

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 12

The Honorable Don L. Tripp, Speaker of the House and
Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Honorable Speaker Tripp and Members of the House:

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, Article IV, Section 22, I hereby VETO and return HOUSE BILL 146, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-Second Legislature, First Session, 2015.

House Bill 146 (HB 146) expands what qualifies as “instructional material” to include “original source material from primary sources” as well as “other content resources that support digital learning.”

While I support the expansion of digital learning resources and teaching our students using original source material, HB 146 would also allow school districts to use their entire annual distribution of funds to purchase instructional materials that have not been deemed to meet the appropriate standards for our students. Thus, this bill would, at a maximum, lower standards of learning, which is completely unacceptable, and at a minimum, result in high costs to school districts to vet and review instructional materials. Currently, districts do not bear the lion’s share of these costs.

Additionally, and more critically, this bill eliminates a key provision in law that requires the Public Education Department to verify that schools have a policy in place that every student has a textbook for each class that conforms to curriculum requirements and that allows students to take those textbooks home. Eliminating these provisions jeopardizes the quality of the materials our children are provided in school and eliminates the guarantee that students will have regular and convenient access to those materials.

For these reasons, I hereby veto HB 146.

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Respectfully yours,

Susana Martinez

Governor

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Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____, 2015

By _____
Secretary of State

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____, 2015

By _____
Chief Clerk of the House