

March 7, 2018

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 147

The Honorable Brian Egolf, Jr., Speaker of the House and
Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Honorable Speaker Egolf 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 85, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-Third Legislature, Second Session, 2018.

House Bill 85 has the potential to negatively impact the Educational Retirement Fund. With the fund still only funded at 62.9%, changes to members' benefits like what HB 85 proposes could affect the well-deserved retirement of New Mexico's future educators, even with teachers purchasing service at its actuarial value. Additionally, because districts' benefits vary so widely, HB 85's provisions may not be enjoyed the same way by all of our state's school staff. For example, those teachers who earn personal leave, but not specifically *sick* leave, might be precluded from taking advantage of this benefit altogether.

Our districts are best positioned to serve our teachers as the valuable employees they are. I encourage district leaders to work with our educators and support staff to find ways to meet their needs, like allowing employees to sell unused leave back to the district, without impacting the future of the Educational Retirement Fund.

Respectfully yours,

Susana Martinez
Governor

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Page 2

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Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____, 2018

By _____
Secretary of State

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____, 2018

By _____
Chief Clerk of the House