



STATE OF MINNESOTA

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ARNE H. CARLSON
GOVERNOR

14 May 1991

The Honorable Robert Vanasek
Speaker of the House
Minnesota House of Representatives
State Capitol House Chambers
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have vetoed and am returning to you Chapter 91, House File 1310/Senate File 1206, which makes an assault on a public employee who is engaged in the performance of mandated duties a gross misdemeanor.

I view this as a victim discrimination bill, giving yet another group special protection from assault. For each group, there are reasons why the public would naturally want to see special protection. The problem is that there is no end to this exercise of choosing groups for which a protective instinct exists.

Is it really more heinous to strike a dairy inspector than to strike an insurance salesperson? Is it a greater crime to knock down a physical education teacher than to knock down an 80-year-old grandmother? Accordingly, I do not believe this is a proper area for legislative intervention.

An assault is an assault. The occupation of the victim should not alter the nature of the crime.

Sincerely,

ARNE H. CARLSON
Governor

c: Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Jane B. Ranum, Senate Chief Author
Senator Jerome Hughes, President of the Senate
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Representative Ken Nelson, House Chief Author
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Joan Anderson Growe, Secretary of State