

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
SAINT PAUL 55155

April 3, 1996

The Honorable Irv Anderson  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
The State of Minnesota

Dear Speaker Anderson:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 432, House File No. 2101, a bill that would expand the ability to use mail ballots for elections in Minnesota.

Chapter 432 would allow a creeping spread of an unwise policy instituted under a previous administration. By one estimate, this bill would allow up to fifteen percent of the state's voters to ignore an important and relatively easy obligation of citizenship, that being to join fellow citizens at the polling place to cast their ballots.

There is simply no good public policy for this proposed expansion. Minnesota's current law adequately addresses those voters who reside in remote locations. Monetary savings touted for mail balloting do not match other state's experiences, since unlike those jurisdictions, return postage in Minnesota is paid for by the taxpayers.

Minnesota has always been a national leader in voter turnout. It is a record that all Minnesotans should be proud of, and it comes from an informed and involved citizenry.

As policy makers, we should consciously work to improve voter involvement in shaping those policies. Instead this bill would take us in the other direction. While election day is the culmination of a campaign, this would allow a significant number of voters to cast their ballots without the benefit of observing the events of and policies advanced in the last two weeks of the campaign. We should not promote casting of ballots by less than fully informed citizens.

Finally, democracy is not supposed to be easy. We have a duty not to cheapen what our forbearers dreamed of and fought for. We need to teach our children that it is a sacred duty to come together with our neighbors, wait in line if we must, and protect our freedom with our vote.

Warmest regards,

ARNE H. CARLSON  
GovernorSTATE OF MINNESOTA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
SAINT PAUL 55155

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Speaker of the House of Representatives  
The State of Minnesota

Dear Speaker Anderson:

It is my honor to inform you that I have received, approved, signed and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State Chapter 412, House File No. 2156, the Omnibus Education bill (with the exceptions of Article 1, Section 34, subdivision 3, on page 32 lines 1 through 6; Article 2, Section 18, on page 46 lines 23 through 35; and Article 4, Section 28, on page 94 lines 6 through 19; and Article 4, Section 34, subdivision 3, on page 100 lines 28 through 33).