

State of Louisiana



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

Post Office Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 1, 2011

The Honorable Glenn Koepf
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: Senate Bill No. 6 by Senator Gautreaux

Dear Mr. Koepf:

Senate Bill No. 6 by Senator Gautreaux unnecessarily ties the payment of state retirement debt to much-needed reforms such as greater autonomy for public schools through charter conversions and better fiscal management through contracting and outsourcing. In doing so, this bill creates a significant deterrent to educational reform efforts.

I support efforts to pay down the unfunded accrued liability, which is why I signed Act 7 of the 2008 2nd Extraordinary Session to appropriate \$20 million to Louisiana State Employees Retirement System and \$40 million to Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana. I am also signing legislation from the 2011 Regular Session to dedicate a portion of nonrecurring funds to paying down the unfunded accrued liability and to reform municipal pension systems in order to help local governments get rising pension costs under control. We must continue to look for ways to ensure the actuarial soundness of our state retirement systems but not at the expense of our educational institutions and of our students.

Multiple stakeholders – including the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, Louisiana State University, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, and Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans – have declared their opposition to the bill.

For this reason, I have vetoed Senate Bill No. 6 and hereby return it to the Senate.

Sincerely,


Bobby Jindal
Governor