



May 30, 2017

The Honorable Rick Scott
Office of the Governor
The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: VETO REQUEST HB 7069 Education Bill

Dear Governor Scott:

We are writing to respectfully request that you veto HB 7069, the education bill. Our concerns relate only to the lack of transparency in the process by which major policy decisions regarding Florida's education system were decided.

According to all reports, major education policy decisions included in HB 7069 were largely decided in secret by a small number of legislators. The secretive process precluded any opportunity for public oversight or input on major changes to Florida's education policy. Alarming, local school officials were also shut out of the process, as were many legislators who were ultimately asked to approve this voluminous and complicated legislation decided in a manner closed even to them.

Our citizens deserve the respect and the commitment of our elected leaders to uphold our Florida Sunshine laws, a 33 years old tradition and benchmark of good government.

We ask that you veto HB 7069 and allow the Legislature to come back to Tallahassee to reconsider the budget in a more open and transparent manner during a special session.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Petersen, President

Cc: Jon Kaney, General Counsel, First Amendment Foundation
Samuel Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association
Gil Thelen, Executive Director, Florida Society of News Editors

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