STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 16, 2009

The Honorable Margaret Anderson Kelliher
Speaker of the House
463 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Kelliher:

Please be advised that I have received, signed and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State Chapter 96, House File 2, the omnibus education bill.

At the beginning of session, I proposed to continue to invest in K-12 education by $198 million despite the historic economic crisis Minnesota confronts. In addition, I also proposed to significantly reform how the K-12 education system operates through a series of reform proposals, such as statewide expansion of Q Comp, Pay for Progress, and the Teaching Transformation Act. Unfortunately, this bill fails to invest in or significantly reform the Minnesota's K-12 education system.

I am also very disappointed by the significant step backward this bill takes by allowing students to graduate from high school for the next five years without demonstrating they have the math skills necessary to succeed in college or work.

I signed this bill with reluctance. The state's K-12 education system is in need of significant reform. This bill, unfortunately, does not meaningfully address that need.

Sincerely,

Tim Pawlenty,
Governor

cc: Senator James Metzen, President of the Senate
Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader
Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader
Senator LeRoy Stumpf
Representative Marty Seifert, Minority Leader
Representative Mindy Greiling
Mr. Peter S. Wattson, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Al Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State