

STATE OF ARIZONA

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GOVERNOR

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May 20, 2005

The Honorable Ken Bennett
Senate President
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1527: tuition organizations; tax credit; budget

Dear President Bennett:


Today I vetoed Senate Bill 1527, related to tax credits for contributions to school tuition organizations.

During the course of the recent budget negotiations, I reached an agreement with you and Speaker Weiers under which I would sign Senate Bill 1527 if it were part of a comprehensive budget that included a number of other components, including specifically a bill to adequately fund English Language Learning (ELL) programs. You and Speaker Weiers pledged to develop a bi-partisan bill to adequately fund ELL. Unfortunately, this did not occur. Instead, the legislature passed only House Bill 2718, an unnecessarily bureaucratic and partisan measure.

In addition, when we discussed Senate Bill 1527, it was my understanding that it would include a sunset provision, similar to what many state agencies are subject to, that would automatically repeal this law after five years. Such a provision was omitted from the version the legislature passed.

Under the circumstances, I cannot sign Senate Bill 1527 at this time. I remain willing to do so, however, as soon as legislative leadership fulfills its obligations under our agreement. I am also willing to call a special session to deal with these issues.

Yours very truly,


Janet Napolitano
Governor

JN:TN/jm

cc: The Honorable Jim Weiers
The Honorable Dean Martin