



April 14, 2010

The Honorable Charlie Crist
Governor of Florida
PL01 The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Governor Crist:

As Republican members of the Florida Legislature who voted no on Senate Bill 6, a bill relating to educator pay and evaluation, we write today to ask you, our Republican governor, to veto this legislation.

If this bill simply rewarded exceptional teachers with extra pay and offered new avenues to remove bad teachers, we could have voted in support.

While accountability in our schools is of the utmost importance, this bill, in its current form, violates core Republican principles:

- Local control is taken away and more power is given to the Florida Department of Education, an unelected bureaucracy;
- Educators who have worked hard to earn advanced degrees would not be compensated for those efforts;
- This bill does nothing to lower taxes, and in fact, the passage and implementation of this bill is contingent upon Florida receiving another \$900 million in federal stimulus funds;
- Serious fiscal questions remain as to how we will pay for this new state government program that requires the Florida Department of Education to hold back 5% of a local school district's funding every year;
- To avoid classroom cuts, school districts will have no option but to raise local taxes. Classroom funding should not be used to grow a new and bigger Tallahassee bureaucracy on the backs of taxpayers; and
- Most troubling, educators are being asked to accept all of the responsibility for the performance of their students. Tenets of personal responsibility, stronger families and individual freedoms should dictate that parents, teachers, and the students themselves should all be held responsible for the educational experience of each child.

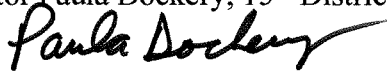
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We represent citizens from all around the State of Florida. Our constituents have voiced their opposition to Senate Bill 6. The letters, phone calls and emails that we received from current and former educators, parents and students were overwhelmingly against this bill. The number that we have received pales in comparison to the amount that you have received, which we understand were overwhelmingly asking for your veto. As elected officials, it is our duty to represent the will of people who put us in office.

This bill directly violates the core principles of the Republican Party: less government, more local control, and personal responsibility. With the passage of this bill, government will further expand its power, and in the words of Ronald Reagan: "As government expands, liberty contracts."

We trust that you will adhere to your Republican principles and listen to the will of Floridians who have made their voices heard loud and clear. Please veto Senate Bill 6 and ask the Legislature to craft better policy.

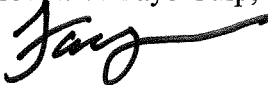
Senator Paula Dockery, 15th District



Senator Alex Villalobos, 38th District



Representative Faye Culp, 57th District



Representative Ed Homan, 60th District



Representative Juan-Carlos Planas, 115th District



Representative Julio Robaina, 117th District

