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Office of the Governor

June 2, 2025

The Honorable Steve Yeager
Speaker of the Nevada State Assembly
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Re: Assembly Bill 445 of the 83rd Legislative Session

Dear Speaker Yeager:

I am forwarding to you, for filing within the time limit set forth in the Nevada Constitution and without my approval, Assembly Bill 445 ("AB 445"), which is titled as follows:

AN ACT relating to libraries; providing that library staff are immune from criminal or civil liability for certain good faith acts relating to providing access to or assisting pupils or library patrons in accessing library materials; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

AB 445 is untenable due to its vague and overly broad language. The bill grants immunity to library staff for actions taken in "good faith" to "provide access to or assist pupils in accessing library materials." However, it fails to define what constitutes "good faith" or offer any guidance on its application. This ambiguity creates an unworkable legal standard. In situations where a staff member's actions are questionable or controversial, courts would be left with little more than subjective judgment to determine whether the staff member should be immune from liability.

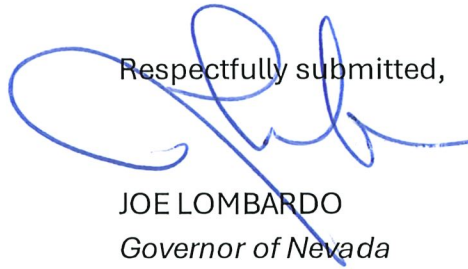
Moreover, the bill undermines existing and appropriate oversight mechanisms. Many schools have established policies governing the materials available to students, often tailored to age, educational level, and developmental appropriateness. By granting immunity to library staff, the bill could weaken the authority of elected school boards and parents in making decisions about what is suitable for students to access.

Additionally, this bill could reduce the incentive for libraries to implement training programs and standards that guide staff in making responsible, well-informed decisions about the materials they provide. The lack of accountability created by legal immunity could lead to inadequate consideration of the needs and protections of students.

Given that AB 445 establishes an unclear legal standard that would lead to unpredictable outcomes and undermines critical safeguards that help families trust the materials made available in libraries, I cannot support this bill.

For these reasons, I veto this bill and return it without my signature or approval.

Respectfully submitted,



JOE LOMBARDO
Governor of Nevada

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Stavros Anthony, President of the Senate (without enclosure)
The Honorable Nicole Cannizzaro, Senate Majority Leader (without enclosure)
The Honorable Francisco Aguilar, Secretary of State (without enclosure)
Brendan Bucy, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure)
Bonnie Borda Hoffecker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)
Diane Thornton, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Director (without enclosure)
Asher Killian, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)