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Office of the Governor

June 5, 2025

The Honorable Francisco Aguilar
Nevada Secretary of State
101 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Re: Assembly Bill 217 of the 83rd Legislative Session

Dear Secretary of State Aguilar:

I am forwarding to you, for filing within the time limit set forth in the Nevada Constitution and without my approval, Assembly Bill 217 ("AB 217"), which is titled as follows:

AN ACT relating to education; prohibiting school districts, public schools and their employees from providing permission to access school district facilities to certain federal officials investigating or enforcing immigration laws; prohibiting school districts, public schools and their employees from providing information concerning pupils to certain federal, state or local officials investigating or enforcing immigration laws; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

AB 217 is well-intentioned but fundamentally overbroad, and risks creating legal confusion between state and federal authority. Section 1(1) of the bill prohibits school employees from granting federal immigration officials access to school property without a court-issued warrant. This language is overly rigid and fails to account for well-established constitutional exceptions—such as exigent circumstances—that permit law enforcement access in emergency situations. By disregarding these legal nuances, AB 217 could impede legitimate enforcement actions and place school personnel in legally precarious situations.

Moreover, the bill lacks any limitation tied to school hours or the presence of students. As written, it applies 24/7, effectively transforming school grounds into sanctuary zones at all times. This extends far beyond the bill sponsor's stated goal of ensuring that immigration concerns do not deter children from attending school. A narrowly tailored approach might accomplish that objective; AB 217, however, sweeps far wider than necessary.

Compounding these concerns is the ambiguity and burden placed on educators and staff. In the rare event that federal immigration officials do appear, school personnel will be forced to make rapid, high-stakes decisions without clear legal guidance. The bill provides no practical framework for staff to resolve the tension between federal obligations and state-imposed restrictions. Worse still, the bill imposes disciplinary consequences for any misstep—even in moments of understandable confusion or good-faith judgment.

For all these reasons, AB 217, in its current form, is not only overreaching but potentially harmful. It creates legal uncertainty, undermines cooperation with federal authorities, and unfairly penalizes school employees caught in the crossfire. I cannot support it.

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 Steve Yeager, Speaker of the Assembly (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)