



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

June 28, 2007

Mr. Kurt S. Browning  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Secretary Browning:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby withhold my approval of and transmit to you with my objections, Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 2512, enacted during the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Legislature of Florida and convened under the Constitution of 1968, during the Regular Session of 2007 and entitled:

An act relating to public school educator certification...

This bill will reduce the required professional development from 300 hours to 60 hours for reading teachers who teach students who speak English as a second language. I am concerned that this reduction may impede these students' academic, social, and cultural progress. The Florida Hispanic Legislative Caucus has also unanimously expressed similar concerns about this bill in a recent letter to me.

Florida holds high academic standards for its students. Reading is the cornerstone of learning, and reading teachers are the foundation through which students achieve these standards. It is imperative that our students learn to read English from the highest-quality instructors so that they can succeed more readily in other subjects. Accordingly, I cannot justify lower standards for these teachers.

For these reasons, I withhold my approval of Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 2512, and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist

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