



STATE OF ARIZONA

April 29, 2011

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

The Honorable Ken Bennett
Secretary of State
1700 West Washington, 7th Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: House Bill 2067 (board of supervisors; powers)

Dear Secretary Bennett:

Today I vetoed House Bill 2067. Although I share the Legislature's concerns about the unacceptable process by which the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) recently exercised its authority over the University of Arizona (UA) Healthcare board, and I appreciate efforts by legislative leadership to institute a cooling-off period for all parties, I am concerned about the legal and contractual implications of the legislation.

To be clear, I do not endorse ABOR's actions or the surprising eleventh-hour decisions undertaken without input from key policymakers. I support efforts by the Legislature to have a clearer understanding about the appropriate governance structure and funding of the University of Arizona College of Medicine (UA COM) and UA Healthcare. Decisions on such an important community resource, which is funded by taxpayers, cannot be made in isolation by an elite group of individuals who have appointed themselves as the sole arbiters of the future direction of our state's academic medical center.

Despite the messaging that economic doom will befall our great state if this legislation were signed, I have yet to hear a clearly articulated reason why the existing structure limits our opportunity for success. However, due to the concerns mentioned above, I am reluctantly vetoing House Bill 2067.

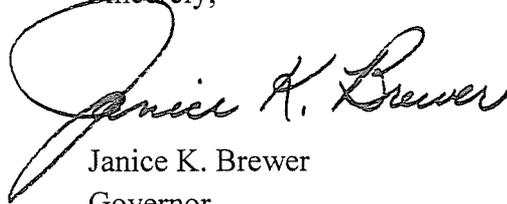
Any further discussion regarding the relationship between UA Healthcare and the UA COM must be transparent and include input from a much broader set of stakeholders, including those elected to oversee our state's academic resources. If ABOR and the parties involved continue discussions regarding this important community resource without involvement of these stakeholders and key policymakers, I will call a special session to enact an appropriate framework for the conversation.

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In the meantime, to provide oversight of future discussions on the issue of the relationship between UA Healthcare and the UA COM, and to facilitate better communication among the parties, I am establishing by Executive Order the Arizona Medical Education Oversight Task Force. The Task Force will conduct a review of the process so far, oversee ongoing discussions, solicit input from a broad range of stakeholders, conduct an analysis of options for the structure of the academic medical center – including privatizing functions to the greatest extent possible – and make recommendations to me regarding future direction.

Dialogue with higher education, health care, community and business leaders will help ensure broad support for any future vision of our state's academic medical center. This support is critical to its success. Arizonans from all walks of life benefit from the state having a world class academic medical center, and we are all invested in its future.

Sincerely,



Janice K. Brewer
Governor

cc: The Honorable Russell Pearce
The Honorable Andy Tobin
The Honorable Judy Burges
Senate Secretary
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Arizona News