



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 11, 2012

The Honorable Steve Pierce
President of the Senate
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1176 (parenting time; court-ordered supervisors)

Dear President Pierce,

Today, I vetoed Senate Bill 1176. The bill was amended in the House to exempt school personnel from reporting a non-accidental physical injury inflicted upon a minor by another minor and require a law enforcement agency or school district to expunge any records regarding such an injury.

The bill includes ambiguous, undefined terms and contains a substantive shift in reporting requirements for suspected harm against a child. Specifically, the term *not a serious physical injury* is not defined. This lack of clarity would leave schools with little direction on which injuries constitute "serious" injuries.

Further, the requirement for law enforcement agencies and school districts to expunge records relating to an injury is concerning. If records of previous physical harm against a minor are no longer available, school personnel and law enforcement would be unable to address cases of bullying or assault.

I greatly appreciate the provisions of Senate Bill 1176 requiring a valid fingerprint clearance card for court-ordered supervisors who oversee parenting time. These types of precautionary measures are vital to preventing child abuse and are consistent with the need to strengthen protections for children.

The Honorable Steve Pierce

April 11, 2012

Page 2 of 2

I applaud the sponsor's efforts to create safer environments for the children of our state. I am committed to working with her to address the fingerprint clearance card requirement, and I look forward to strengthening these statutory protections. However, the bill as amended would diminish mandatory reporting requirements currently in place. These concerns are among the primary reasons I have vetoed Senate Bill 1176.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice K. Brewer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

cc: The Honorable Andy Tobin
The Honorable Linda Gray