

## STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR 130 STATE CAPITOL SAINT PAUL 55155

ARNE H. CARLSON GOVERNOR

May 9, 1995

The Honorable Irv Anderson Speaker of the House of Representatives 463 State Office Building Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Anderson:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 138, House File 624, a bill relating to public employees running for elective office.

Chapter 138 would give public employees the right to take an unpaid leave of absence upon becoming a candidate for any elected public office. It appears to expand a questionable policy that is currently limited to state employees in Minnesota Statutes § 43A.32. I find this bill to be unacceptable.

I certainly believe that we should encourage people to run for elective office. Currently, any public or private employer may choose to give an employee a leave of absence to become a candidate. However, requiring public employers to offer this benefit gives public employees a significant advantage over private employees when running for elective office. This is contrary to the public's desire to create a level playing field for all candidates.

This bill could also create management difficulties for public employers at a time when we are demanding increased efficiencies and higher levels of performance from all of government.

Finally, Chapter 138 may create false expectations among public employees. Despite state law, the federal Hatch Act may prohibit a candidate from returning to public employment whenever a conflict of interest would arise and federal funding is implicated.

Warmest regards,

ARNÈ H. CARLSON Governor

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cc: Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Allan Spear, President of the Senate
Senator Dean Johnson, Minority Leader
Representative Steve Sviggum, Minority Leader
Senator John Hottinger
Representative Don Ostrom
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Joan Anderson Growe, Secretary of State