



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 30, 2017

The Honorable Michelle L. Fischbach
President of the Senate
Room 2113, Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Madam President:

On the advice of my General Counsel, to ensure there are no legal challenges, I am signing Chapter 89, Senate File 943 rather than allowing it to become law without my signature.

In my judgement, the Omnibus Higher Education bill represents a lost opportunity to more substantially invest in Minnesota State, the University of Minnesota, and our need-based State Grant Program at a time of sizeable state budget surplus.

The bill has several notable features including the creation of a statewide resource that will provide professional development and guidance on best practices for post-secondary institutions on campus sexual violence prevention and response and will provide food and housing emergency assistance for students at risk of dropping out.

The bill invests significantly in campus support at Minnesota State and core mission support at the University of Minnesota, but unfortunately not at a level that will prevent tuition increases. Investments in MnDrive research, health care training, and the Natural Resources Research Institute are important to the entire state.

The increased investment in need-based aid will add 4,100 new recipients and help low and middle income students and their families with over 82,000 students seeing increases in their grants between \$45 and \$1,378.

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For these reasons, I hope next year we can make additional investments in our higher education institutions and programs to make college more affordable for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Dayton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: Senator Paul E. Gazelka, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Thomas M. Bakk, Senate Minority Leader
Senator Michelle Fischbach, Minnesota Senate
Representative Kurt Daudt, Speaker of the House
Representative Melissa Hortman, House Minority Leader
Representative Bud Nornes, House of Representatives
The Honorable Steve Simon, Secretary of State
Mr. Cal R. Ludeman, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Patrick Murphy, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr. Paul Marinac, Revisor of Statutes