



KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ADAM GREGG
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June 17, 2022

The Honorable Paul Pate
Secretary of State of Iowa
State Capitol
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I hereby transmit House File 2493, an Act relating to para-educators holding substitute authorizations and including effective date provisions.

House File 2493 provides critical relief to school districts facing a substitute teacher shortage. In years past, a certified para-educator holding a full substitute authorization was limited to substitute teach only in a special education classroom within the district. House File 2493 allows that same educator to substitute teach in almost any classroom in the district, pre-kindergarten through grade 12. The change offers a valuable tool to keep teachers in our classrooms.

Fortunately, school districts had been afforded this same relief long before House File 2493 passed the legislature. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and working alongside the Board of Educational Examiners, I ensured that school administrators could take advantage of this flexibility during the entire 2020-2021 school year. And once the next school year began, we discovered that substitute teachers were still in high demand. According to a recent survey of school superintendents, 9 out of every 10 school districts took advantage of this relief when needed.

By February 2022, the COVID pandemic was over but our teacher shortage remained. I therefore called upon the Board of Educational Examiners to amend its administrative rules, effective immediately, to continue this important relief moving forward. That administrative rule, which continues to navigate the rulemaking process, was used by 77% of school districts in its first month. That's because the rule change is good policy—and should remain permanent.

House File 2493 sunsets this important relief on June 30, 2022. The bill will undo the good work the State of Iowa has accomplished over the past two years. And school districts agree: 92% of school district superintendents believe that a sunset of the Board of Educational Examiners' rule change would negatively impact the district's ability to access substitutes in the future.

I recognize that House File 2493 passed both chambers unanimously and faced virtually no opposition. The overarching goal of this bill is admirable. But it is incumbent that this relief be permanent, not temporary.

For these reasons, I respectfully disapprove of House File 2493 in its entirety and it is vetoed in whole. I have also directed the Board of Educational Examiners to incorporate consistent provisions of this bill into its noticed administrative rule, where appropriate.

Sincerely,

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

Kim Reynolds
Governor of Iowa

cc: Secretary of the Senate
Clerk of the House