

July 2, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I hereby transmit Senate File 497, an Act relating to appropriations to the justice system, and including effective date and retroactive applicability provisions.

Senate File 497 is approved on this date with the following exceptions, which I hereby disapprove.

I am unable to approve the item designated as Section 4, subsection 1, lettered paragraph c, in its entirety. This item contains policy language pertaining to the Department of Corrections entering into a new contract in excess of \$100,000 for privatized services during fiscal year 2016 without prior notification of the legislature and employee organizations. However, this item allows the department to renew existing contracts without notification. This item would prevent the department from obtaining services for inmates in an effective and efficient manner. This notification unnecessarily impedes the department's management authority.

I am unable to approve the item designated as Section 4, subsection 1, lettered paragraph d, in its entirety. This item contains policy language regarding staffing levels at the Department of Corrections. While I support efforts to ensure adequate numbers of correctional officers, I believe that flexibility is needed to determine how many officers are hired based on costs, availability of funding and the needs of each institution. Adequate staffing is the prerogative of the Executive Branch; therefore, this language is unnecessary.

I am unable to approve the item designated as Section 26, subsection 1, lettered paragraph c, in its entirety. This item contains policy language pertaining to the Department of Corrections entering into a new contract in excess of \$100,000 for privatized services during fiscal year 2017 without prior notification of the legislature and employee organizations. However, this item allows the department to renew existing contracts without notification. This item would prevent the department from obtaining services for inmates in an effective and efficient manner. This notification unnecessarily impedes the department's management authority.

I am unable to approve the item designated as Section 26, subsection 1, lettered paragraph d, in its entirety. This item contains policy language regarding staffing levels at the Department of Corrections. While I support efforts to ensure adequate numbers of correctional officers, I believe that flexibility is needed to determine how many officers are hired based on costs, availability of funding and the needs of each institution. Adequate staffing is the prerogative of the Executive Branch; therefore, this language is unnecessary.

For the above reasons, I respectfully disapprove the designated items in accordance with Amendment IV of the Amendments of 1968 to the Constitution of the State of Iowa. All other items in Senate File 497 are hereby approved as of this date.

Sincerely,

TERRY E. BRANSTAD
Governor