

VETO MESSAGE ON ESHB 2128

May 12, 2009

To the Honorable Speaker and Members,
The House of Representatives of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have approved, except for Section 3, Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2128 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to meeting the goal of all children in Washington having health care coverage by 2010."

Section 3 requires the Department of Social and Health Services to identify a staff position as the single point of contact and coordination for the Apple Health for Kids program. While I appreciate the intent of this section, I believe it inappropriate to direct in statute how an agency must staff a particular program. Especially in this difficult economic time, agencies must have the flexibility to allocate limited staff resources in the way which best suits all of their activities. Nonetheless, I will direct the Department to appoint someone to oversee this program.

For this reason, I have vetoed Section 3 of Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2128. With the exception of Section 3, Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2128 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine O. Gregoire
Governor