



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

June 11, 2008

The Honorable André Bauer
President of the Senate
State House, First Floor, East Wing
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

I am vetoing and returning without my approval S. 970, R-347, that eliminates the current requirement that the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) must notify a school district superintendent and nurse of any students who have AIDS/HIV.

We believe that as a matter of public policy that more highly contagious diseases should be added to this notification list rather than deleted. Instead, this bill would move in the opposite direction by removing what many consider to be a very deadly disease. In the interest of health and safety for all children, DHEC should continue to notify the proper school officials if a child has AIDS/HIV. If anything, we would take this law a step further by adding two other highly contagious bloodborne diseases - Hepatitis B as well as Hepatitis C.

At a common sense level, if my son or daughter was sitting in class or was on the sporting field with a fellow student who happened to have Hepatitis C, as a parent I would want to know. It's always been my belief that we ought to maximize liberty, but in so doing, my rights end when they begin to infringe upon the rights of another. I realize that federal law prohibits an individual from passing along these relevant details (related to highly contagious bloodborne diseases) to the very students who might be impacted – but I see no reason that state law should codify this misguided principle that is now, indeed, codified at the federal level of law.

I am aware of no public outcry to change existing law, and as I mentioned earlier, I believe if anything we should be adding other highly contagious diseases to this list. For these reasons, I am vetoing and returning without my approval S. 970, R-347.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MS", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Sanford