

VETO MESSAGE ON SSB 6743

March 28, 2008

To the Honorable President and Members,
The Senate of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning, without my approval as to Section 1,
Substitute Senate Bill 6743 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to autism awareness instruction for
teachers of students with autism."

This bill provides for training and guidelines for teachers of
students with autism.

Section 1 includes an extensive listing of items for an autism
guidebook that is being developed by the Caring for Washington
Individuals with Autism Task Force with staff support from the
Department of Health. These items are very specific regarding
possible strategies and activities that could be included to
support children with autism in our public schools.

The OSPI already has a guide developed as a resource for both
educators and parents, produced by the Autism Outreach
Project, which maintains an informational web site as well as
an e-mail address for communication with individuals with
specific questions and concerns. I believe that this guide is
the most appropriate document to address the many issues
raised in Section 1.

Therefore, I have asked the OSPI to update its guide and to
emphasize tools for parents to use. I have also asked that
this updated guide be distributed to educational service
districts, school districts, appropriate school employees and
parent advocacy groups.

Additionally, I have asked the Professional Educator Standards
Board and the OSPI to develop recommendations for autism
awareness instruction and methods of teaching students with
autism that will strengthen learning for students. The
recommendations will address appropriate content in teacher
preparation and professional development. These reports will
be completed by December 1, 2008.

For these reasons, I am vetoing Section 1 of Substitute Senate
Bill 6743.

With the exception of Section 1, Substitute Senate Bill 6743
is approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Gregoire
Governor