



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING
October 29, 2009

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

Ladies and Gentlemen:

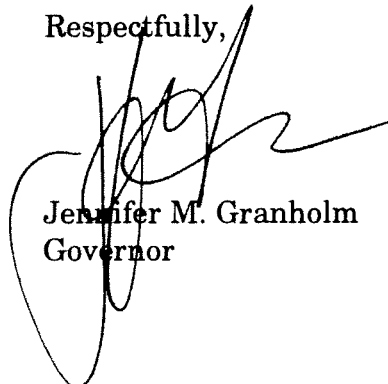
Today I have signed Enrolled House Bill 4441, which authorizes expenditures relating to higher education for the fiscal year that ends September 30, 2010. While this bill provides \$84.5 million student financial aid, that represents a funding reduction of \$135 million—more than 61 percent—from the just concluded fiscal year at a time our students struggle to find a way to pay for college.

Cuts in this budget directly impacting students include a \$17.9 million reduction in state competitive scholarships and the elimination of nursing scholarships, the Michigan Work-Study Program, the Part-Time Independent Student Program, and Michigan Education Opportunity Grants. I am deeply disappointed and saddened for the thousands of Michigan families who were promised college assistance that has now been denied because this bill includes no funding for the Michigan Promise Scholarship. I strongly encourage the Legislature to get to work on finding the resources to keep this commitment to our students. We must keep the promise.

To provide direction regarding the implementation of this appropriations act, I note that Sections 210, 217, 316, 317, 318, 319, 402, 426, 433(3), 450, 451, 471, and 480 of the bill include statements of legislative intent. While the Legislature has the right to state its advice, preferences, or wishes through a statement of intent, such statements do not impose conditions upon appropriations and are non-binding. Statements of legislative intent also do nothing to help students pay for college.

The funding provided under this bill for our state universities is a good first step to support higher education opportunities for our young adults. However, I believe that it is essential that we find a way to fund the Michigan Promise Scholarship and I look forward to speedy action on behalf of our students and their families.

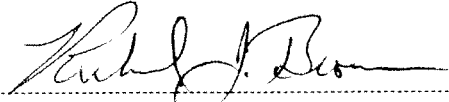
Respectfully,



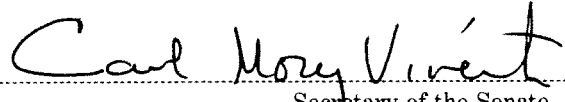
Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor

c: Michigan Senate
The Honorable Terri Lynn Land

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

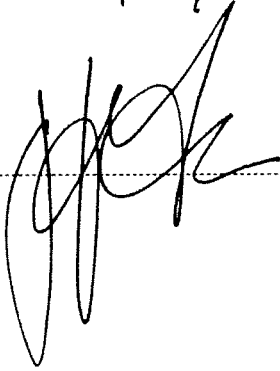


Clerk of the House of Representatives



Secretary of the Senate

Approved 10/29/09 4:30 p.m.



Governor