

## Message from the Governor

Pursuant to Article 2, Section 14 of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, I hereby return Senate Substitute for House Bill No. 2968 with my signature approving the bill, except for the items enumerated below.

### **Health Policy Authority**

#### **Business Health Partnership**

Section 35(d) has been line item vetoed in its entirety.

I veto removal of the \$500,000 from the State General Fund for FY 2007 for the Business Health Partnership that was approved by the 2006 Legislature in SB 480, the MEGA bill. This pilot program was originally requested by the Business Health Policy Committee, which was created by the Legislature with the intention of providing small businesses access to health coverage at an affordable rate. The Committee includes business leaders and legislators. The Health Policy Authority has already presented a request for proposals and undertaken a considerable amount of other preparation work to implement this program. Leaving this \$500,000 appropriation in the budget allows the Business Health Partnership to go forward.

### **Department of Wildlife & Parks**

#### **Playa Lakes Groundwater**

Section 63(f) has been line item vetoed in its entirety.

I veto this portion of the bill, which would not allow any state funds to be used to pump or transport water to playa lakes or other wetlands in the region of the high plains aquifer belonging to the Department of Wildlife and Parks. The playa lakes and wetlands affected by this proviso are important components of the national flyway for both shore birds and waterfowl. In addition, they are important open public hunting facilities. The

water rights that have been granted for the purpose of maintaining these resources are appropriately dealt with in the Water Appropriations Act and should not be limited or changed through a proviso in an appropriations bill.

### **Motor Vehicles**

Section 63(g) has been line item vetoed in its entirety.

This item would require the Department of Wildlife and Parks to retain 25 vehicles in the agency fleet. Over the last three years, all agencies have been examining their vehicle fleets in an attempt to reduce them to the most efficient level possible. Requiring an agency to retain vehicles that they may not need does not promote efficient management.

## **Legislature**

### **Tiered Floor of House Chamber**

Section 70 has been line item vetoed in its entirety.

I veto Section 70, which prohibits the use of any expenditures to level permanently the tiered floor in the Kansas House chamber. This section would alter the plan for Statehouse renovation agreed to by the Capitol Restoration Committee and would create problems in meeting ADA requirements. A level floor allows full seating for the House members and maximum access for people with disabilities.