GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY
65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 720
(573) 751-3222

July 14, 2014

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Herewith I return to you Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 656 entitled:

AN ACT

To repeal sections 21.750, 84.340, 571.030, 571.101, 571.107, 571.111, 571.117, 575.153, 590.010, and 590.205, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof sixteen new sections relating to firearms, with penalty provisions.

I disapprove of Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 656. My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 656 would allow Missouri school districts to designate teachers or administrators as "school protection officers," who would be authorized to carry concealed firearms within those districts. I have consistently opposed the arming of teachers as a means to keep schools safe. It is simply the wrong approach, and one that I do not support.

The safety of Missourians – especially children – has long been a top priority of mine, both as Governor and as the former chief law enforcement officer of our state. I have supported, and will continue to support, the use of duly authorized law enforcement officers employed as school resource officers in schools. This bill, which would create a new mechanism for the arming of teachers, would not make schools safer. Consequently, I am returning it without my approval.

In accordance with the above stated reasons for disapproval, I am returning Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 656 without my approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor