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April 30, 2001

The Honorable Steve Sviggum
 Speaker of the House of Representatives
 463 State Office Building

Dear Speaker Sviggum:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 58, House File Number 550, a bill extending the rulemaking authority for the Higher Education Services Office (HESO) to implement the EdVest program.

I want to emphasize that my veto relates to the process, not the policy. I do support the implementation of the EdVest program and its excellent goal of encouraging and supporting saving for higher education. However, I believe the program should begin as soon as possible. Rather than extending rule-making authority for up to nine months, I encourage the Legislature to take the steps necessary for immediate implementation prior to the adjournment of this year's legislative session.

Almost four years after the enactment of the program, HESO has not adopted the rules necessary to implement this program. The annual appropriations of \$1.5 million for the college savings plan have cancelled to the General Fund for three years, and there are no assurances that this year's appropriation will be used for its proposed purpose. This is some \$6 million that should have been used to encourage families to save for post-secondary education.

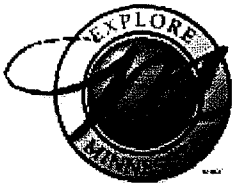
I appreciate and share the Legislature's support for this program, and encourage expedited legislative action so this savings plan can begin this spring.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura

Governor

cc: Senator Don Samuelson, President of the Senate
Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dick Day, Minority Leader
Representative Tom Pugh, Minority Leader
Chief Senate Author
Chief House Author
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State



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