

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

July 15, 1983

MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS
GOVERNOR

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

I am today disapproving two items in House Bill No. 6500 entitled "AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR, FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND CERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH, FOR INTEREST, SINKING FUND AND SERIAL BOND REQUIREMENTS AND FOR CERTAIN PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS", pursuant to section 5 of Article LXIII of the amendments to the Constitution.

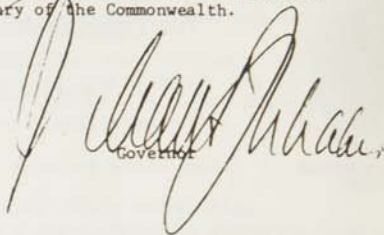
I am disapproving section 22 which would change the federal grant application process. I am disapproving this section because it inadvertently alters the legislative review of federal grant applications in a manner which could have an adverse impact on the Commonwealth's ability to apply in a timely fashion for and receive federal grant funds. I have also instructed my staff to meet with legislative staff to ensure that the intent of the section is honored and to propose administrative changes to the federal grant process which would streamline the process while ensuring continuing legislative review.

I am disapproving section 53 which would legislatively establish pre-screening teams in the Department of Public Welfare. This administration strongly supports the establishment of pre-screening teams to ensure that citizens of the Commonwealth receive the level of care that is medically necessary. Many such pre-screening teams are already in place across the Commonwealth and they have proven to be an effective and humane addition to the system. However, this section as presently drafted would undermine the effectiveness of the pre-screening process and would reduce the Commonwealth's ability to reduce the cost of long-term care. Therefore, despite my support of the general intent of section 53 I must disapprove the section. We will continue to work with the legislature to ensure that the pre-screening process continues to operate humanely and to protect the Commonwealth's most vulnerable citizens.

I continue to be strongly opposed to tuition increases at state colleges and universities this year. I have been assured by the Board of Regents, however, that any tuition increases authorized under the provisions of sections 49 and 50 will not take effect until the spring of 1984, at the earliest, and only on a pilot basis at a limited number of schools.

I also want to call attention to a specific line item (9110-9002) which inequitably earmarks funds for two projects to be run by the councils on aging. While I cannot disapprove this targeting without disapproving all funding to the councils on aging, I must express extreme dismay at this unfair allocation of resources.

The remainder of the bill I hereby approve. This fiscal 1984 appropriation bill is a good bill. Let me take this opportunity to express to you my appreciation for the diligence and cooperation of your memberships, especially the members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee, its able chairmen and hardworking staff, for producing a budget document which is fair and responsible to the taxpaying citizenry of the Commonwealth.



Governor