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## Office of the Governor

June 16, 2011

The Honorable Ross Miller  
Secretary of State  
Capitol Building  
101 South Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

**RE: Assembly Bill 301 of the 76<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**

Dear Secretary Miller:

I am herewith forwarding to you, for filing within the constitutional time limit and without my approval, Assembly Bill 301, which is entitled:

AN ACT relating to civil rights; revising provisions governing the restoration of the right to vote to persons who have been convicted of a felony; revising provisions governing the registration to vote of a person convicted of a felony; revising provisions governing the cancellation of the registration to vote of a person convicted of a felony; revising provisions governing a challenge to the right to vote of a person convicted of a felony; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assembly Bill 301 revises provisions governing the restoration of civil rights to persons convicted of a felony. Under existing law, unless a person has been convicted of certain specified felonies, a person convicted of a felony is immediately restored to the right to vote upon: (1) an honorable discharge from probation; (2) the sealing of his or her records by a court; (3) the granting of a pardon with the restoration of the right to vote; (4) an honorable discharge from parole; or (5) being released from prison upon completion of a sentence. Currently, the right to vote is not restored to a person released from prison if the person has been convicted of certain felonies, unless the person petitions a court for an order granting restoration of the right.

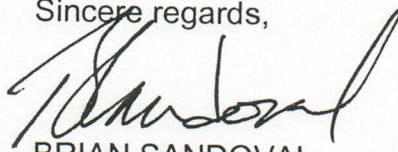
The bill would automatically restore voting rights upon completion of any felony sentence of imprisonment, probation or parole. Supporters of this bill argue that automatic restoration of voting rights for all felons, regardless of the severity of the



offense, will streamline the voter registration process and eliminate confusion about when or how voter rights are restored. However, these arguments are not compelling reasons to overlook the severity of certain offenses and alter the just punishment that is delivered to those who commit these offenses. Notably, Assembly Bill 301 does not alter restoration of the rights to serve as a juror or hold office, which can occur only upon petition to a court (for restoration of the right to serve as a juror in a civil action) or after the passage of a certain period of time after release from prison. Like these rights, the right to vote is a privilege that should not lightly be restored to those few individuals who commit the most egregious crimes in our society.

Because Assembly Bill 301 unnecessarily revises appropriate provisions related to the restoration of civil rights for certain ex-felons, I veto it and return it to you without my signature and without my approval.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Sandoval", written over a horizontal line.

BRIAN SANDOVAL  
Governor

Enclosure

cc:     *The Honorable Brian Krolicki, President of the Senate (without enclosure)*  
          *David A. Byerman, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure)*  
          *Susan Furlong, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)*  
          *Brenda Erdoes, Esq., Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)*