



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

August 19 2006

GOVERNOR'S OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE

*Senate Bill 542 "An Act To Allow Reasonable Access To State Facilities And Employees For Certain Employee Associations"* would mandate access to state facilities and state employees for employee associations with more than 40,000 members for the purposes of membership recruitment, member consultation, and certain products such as insurance products sold by the associations.

The floor of 40,000 members is substantially higher than other statutory requirements for minimum memberships of employee associations. This and other qualifications in the legislation would therefore have the practical effect of giving exclusive access to state facilities to only one employee association of the many who currently represent the interests of public employees. Such a prohibition is patently unfair and jeopardizes employee rights to free association.

By enumerating the right of certain associations to have access to state facilities and employees to sell products offered on the commercial market, the legislation would also give an unfair competitive advantage to insurers affiliated with these particular employee associations. This provision, at the very least, gives an appearance of endorsement of these products by the state of North Carolina, which is inaccurate and therefore not acceptable.

I have signed an executive order directing all state entities under my control and encouraging all other governmental entities to provide the reasonable access that this legislation attempts to afford employee associations if they meet current statutory requirements for payroll withholding.

Since Executive Order 105 satisfies the core legislative intent of providing access among employees and their employee associations, while ensuring fairness, this legislation is not necessary.

Therefore, I veto the bill.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Easley".

Michael F. Easley

Received  
8-21-06  
4:50 AM  
Janet Pruitt

The bill, having been vetoed, is returned to the Clerk of the North Carolina Senate on this 21 day of August 2006 at 4:50 p.m. for reconsideration by that body.