



Office of the Governor

JIM GIBBONS
GOVERNOR

January 14, 2010

Speaker Barbara Buckley
Nevada State Assembly
District Office
5442 Holbrook Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89103-2439

Dear Speaker Buckley:

I am in receipt of your letter dated January 12, 2010 in response to my request for ideas from legislators on the issues of our budget problems. In that letter I had also asked for help regarding the refusal of the legal department of the Legislative Counsel Bureau to help draft potential bills, pursuant to instructions from "Legislative Leadership". I continue to ask for help in resolving this quandary.

With respect to your listed solutions:

1. In the current biennium's budget, K-12 funding was reduced less than 3%. My Education Reform proposal is designed to give students, teachers, school districts and parents the choice in how to spend the money it receives, not based on mandates which are of questionable value. Claiming we have class size reduction is, at best, disingenuous to the public, since waivers from class size reductions exist for many of the districts and it has NEVER been fully funded.
2. The health care bill has not passed, but \$95 million in the current crisis will cost us millions in the future. Do you want to balance the current budget on the backs of future generations?
3. Sweeping of accounts has continued since the economic downturn of 9-11. Many of those accounts have been dramatically impacted by the current economic crisis. (Real Estate, Financial Institutions Division, etc.) Much of the revenue that comes in due to audits is reduced due to the furlough program. While we will continue to look into every crevice of every sofa, it's pretty much swept.
4. Please see 3.
5. Once we have conducted our review, we will work with legislative leadership to come to agreements on what should be implemented from department budget reduction recommendations.