



2016 APR -5 PM 2: 32

SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF IDAHO

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

April 5, 2016

The Honorable Lawrence Denney
Secretary of State
State Capitol
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Mr. Secretary of State,

I hereby advise you that I have returned without my approval, disapproved and vetoed, the following Senate Bill, to wit:

S1342a

within the time limited by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 10:45 a.m. on March 24, 2016.

S1342 violates the Idaho Constitution, art. IX, sec. 6 which states:

Section 6. RELIGIOUS TEST AND TEACHING IN SCHOOL PROHIBITED.
No religious test or qualification shall ever be required of any person as a condition of admission into any public educational institution of the state, either as teacher or student; and no teacher or student of any such institution shall ever be required to attend or participate in any religious service whatever. **No sectarian or religious tenets or doctrines shall ever be taught in the public schools, nor shall any distinction or classification of pupils be made on account of race or color. No books, papers, tracts or documents of a political, sectarian or denominational character shall be used or introduced in any schools established under the provisions of this article, nor shall any teacher or any district receive any of the public school moneys in which the schools have not been taught in accordance with the provisions of this article.**

I have deep respect and appreciation for the Bible as religious doctrine as well as a piece of historic literature. However, allowing S1342 to become law is in direct contravention to the Idaho Constitution, and it could result in a loss of funding and costly litigation for Idaho public schools.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho

CLO/mlw