



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

December 22, 2015

Dear Representative:

Yesterday, I wrote to members of the Appropriations Committee to inform them that, if amended with a stopgap budget, I would veto Senate Bill 1073. As you know, Senate Bill 1073 was reported from the Appropriations Committee after being amended to do just that.

Let me be clear, I will veto this bill if it reaches my desk. As amended, Senate Bill 1073 is a retreat from the bipartisan budget agreement reached among the four caucuses and me.

It is important that we all recognize the devastating consequences of this stopgap budget if it were enacted. It would necessitate the immediate furlough of approximately 8,000 Commonwealth employees. This includes over 4,000 Corrections and Probation and Parole employees, over 1,275 Pennsylvania State Police employees, over 950 Human Services employees, nearly 175 Veterans' Homes employees, and over 325 Revenue employees.

This budget will also result in \$455 million in funding cuts to our schools, compared to the previous year. Without any additional investment in education, school districts that have already adopted budgets will be forced to make severe adjustments leading to further cuts to teachers and programs and robbing districts of the opportunity to turn the corner on years of devastating cuts.

This budget cuts an additional \$47.5 million from county human service programs. Additionally, this budget cuts Home and Community Services by more than \$100 million, denying over 2,150 individuals with disabilities and autism the opportunity to remain in their homes.

This budget cuts funding for Vocational Rehabilitation services by \$8 million. While this may seem like a small amount, it forfeits more than \$30 million in matching federal funds. This budget is full of short-sighted choices such as this that fail to make the necessary investments in the future of our Commonwealth.

It is time to return to the bipartisan budget agreement reached in Senate Bill 1073 prior to amendment. The Commonwealth can little afford the devastating consequences of this stopgap budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Wolf".

TOM WOLF
Governor

cc: Members of the Senate of Pennsylvania