State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196
401-222-2080

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

June 22, 2010

TO THE HONORABLE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 14, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Section 43-1-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I transmit, with my disapproval, 2010 S 2643, Substitute A, "An Act Relating to Elections -- Rhode Island Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting."

This Act would amend the matching public funds law to eliminate preferences for political party candidates, and limit contributions to $1,000 per calendar year for all state candidates.

While I am supportive of this legislation because it treats individual candidates equally without regard to their membership in a particular political party, I remain concerned due to its enforcement date (i.e. effective immediately). Specifically, many candidates have already announced their run for office and this legislation would retroactively affect their campaign finance goals and strategies by limiting the amount of money they could raise and therefore be matched. The intent of the matching funds program is to make it easier for the citizens of Rhode Island to get involved in the political process and run viable campaigns. Unfortunately, this legislation would only hamstring that process for already announced candidates.

For these reasons, I disapprove of this legislation and respectfully urge your support of this veto.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor