STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 2, 2013

The Honorable Andy Biggs
President of the Senate
Arizona State Senate
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1291 (duty to report abuse; exception)

Dear President Biggs,

Today, I signed Senate Bill 1291. The bill exempts injuries that occur in the course of typical playground activity during a school day on the school premises from being reported to Child Protective Services (CPS) or law enforcement.

The intent of the bill is to curb unnecessary reporting to CPS or law enforcement in cases of typical playground accidents. I recognize that schools should have discretion in how to respond to everyday injuries on the playground, and children who are involved in minor playground accidents should not have a permanent record on their school file.

However, the changes proposed in this legislation require teachers and school staff to make determinations as to whether the injury was truly accidental and not the result of a negligent caregiver or a bully.

For this reason, school personnel, and the general public at large, should err on the side of caution when considering whether or not to report an injury to a minor to CPS or law enforcement. After all, children are vulnerable. It is our duty to ensure there are adequate safeguards in place to keep them out of harm's way.

I encourage the sponsor to work closely with CPS, law enforcement, schools, and other community stakeholders to thoroughly review how to best implement the legislation in order to avoid unintended consequences.

Sincerely,

Janice K. Brewer

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

cc: The Honorable Andy Tobin
The Honorable Gail Griffin

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