STATE OF ARIZONA

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April 17, 2006

The Honorable Jim Weiers
Speaker of the House
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: House Bill 2666: abortion; parental consent; notarized statement

Dear Speaker Weiers:

Today I vetoed House Bill 2666, which would have required that parental consent for an abortion be notarized.

This bill poses an unnecessary and unwise burden on the families of girls who seek abortions. Forcing a family to locate and procure the services of a notary to obtain a confidential and constitutionally guaranteed medical procedure is inappropriate. In some instances, such as in small communities that may not have many notaries, this requirement may constitute an undue burden in the eyes of the law, particularly if a notary were to refuse to notarize the consent form.

In any event, girls and their families generally should not have to disclose their medical decisions to anyone other than medical professionals who are bound by the doctor-patient privilege. I am not persuaded that even as amended, House Bill 2666 sufficiently protects the privacy rights of girls and their families.

For these and other reasons, House Bill 2666 should not become law. I would, however, be willing to work with the legislature to continue to build on the efforts begun in my administration to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies in the first place. Such efforts are more reasonably calculated to reduce the need for abortions than measures such as House Bill 2666.

Yours very truly,

Janet Napolitano
Governor

JN:TN/jm

cc: The Honorable Ken Bennett
The Honorable Warde Nichols