



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

January 27, 2009

Mr. Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
Florida Department of State
R. A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Secretary Browning:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby withhold my approval of portions of Senate Bill 2-A, enacted during Special Session A of 2009 by the 21st Legislature convened under the Constitution of 1968, and entitled:

An act making special appropriations; providing appropriations and reductions in appropriations for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, to pay salaries, and other expenses, capital outlay - buildings, and other improvements, and for other specified purposes of the various agencies of state government; providing an effective date.

I have exercised my veto power judiciously after carefully reviewing Senate Bill 2-A. In deciding which items to veto I was guided by a desire to protect our most vulnerable citizens, maintain public safety, strengthen our economy and educational system, and preserve our environment. Therefore, today I restore \$90.9 million in General Revenue funds for the preservation of our investment in Florida's future.

On December 18, 2008, I certified the results of the Revenue Estimating Conference held in November that projected available General Revenue funds will be less than General Revenue appropriations by the end of the current fiscal year. Taking into consideration the most up-to-date information available to my staff in December, the funding gap in the current year was projected to be \$2.3 billion.

As required by Chapter 216, Florida Statutes, I presented several options to balance the 2008-2009 General Revenue budget to the Legislature. Those options included a reduction in government spending, use of various trust funds and the ratification of the Seminole Indian Gaming Compact that will yield the State Treasury \$137.5 million in recurring funds by the end of the fiscal year. When developing these options, my primary concern was that we continue to provide critical services to the most vulnerable Floridians – our elders, disabled persons and children. It was also very important to me that we preserve our investment in K-12 education by providing funds necessary to support Florida's classrooms and our teachers. In addition, it was essential that we continue to effectively provide for the safety and security of every Floridian and visitor to our state. Ensuring that adequate funding is provided for public safety continues to be among my top priorities.

When the Legislature took action on January 5, 2009 by convening a Special Session, many of my recommended options to balance the current year's budget were adopted.

However, the Legislature did not take action on the compact between the State of Florida and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. I believe that resolving the compact in the current fiscal year is still a viable option and would result in the State of Florida receiving \$137.5 million in recurring funds at a time when additional revenue is critically needed.

As previously mentioned, the state's current year General Revenue funding gap is \$2.3 billion. I commend the Legislature for its work in balancing the current year budget by providing a solution equal to \$2.6 billion. As a result, a projected General Revenue balance of approximately \$300 million is generated that could carry forward into the next fiscal year. Though fully aware of the state's General Revenue projections and the need to reduce expenditures, I have concerns with portions of the Special Appropriations Act. Consequently, I will restore approximately \$90.9 million to the General Revenue Fund. Vetoing the following specific appropriations will not cause an imbalance in the General Revenue fund in the current year.

The items I have chosen to veto will restore needed funds to programs vital to the continued well-being of Floridians.

I believe the prior revisions to the Dale Hickam Excellent Teaching Program reduced the funds significantly. The Program provides monetary incentives for teachers to attain national certification. I am proud that Florida leads the nation in Board Certified teachers. Our teachers must be recognized for their dedication and commitment to student achievement. The most important ingredient in a world class education is our teachers, and high-performing teachers deserve financial recognition for their hard work. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line items:

SECTION 1 - EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT "LOTTERY" TRUST FUND

**Specific Appropriation 4
Page 1**

"4	AID TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	
	GRANTS AND AIDS - EXCELLENT TEACHING	
	FROM EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENT TRUST	
	FUND	-3,000,000"

SECTION 2 - EDUCATION (ALL OTHER FUNDS)

**Specific Appropriation 47
Page 9**

"47	AID TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	
	GRANTS AND AIDS - EXCELLENT TEACHING	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-10,450,678"

In order to strengthen Florida's economy, it is essential to continue providing Floridians with the opportunity to complete a career or adult education program that will lead to employment. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line items:

SECTION 1 - EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT "LOTTERY" TRUST FUND

**Specific Appropriation 5
 Pages 1 and 2**

"5 AID TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
 FROM EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENT TRUST
 FUND -286,699

The reduced appropriations in Specific Appropriations 5 and 71 are allocated in Specific Appropriation 71."

SECTION 2 - EDUCATION (ALL OTHER FUNDS)

**Specific Appropriation 71
 Page 13**

"71 AID TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
 FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND -15,071,920

The reduced appropriation in Specific Appropriations 5 and 71 shall be allocated as follows:

Alachua.....	-53,390
Baker.....	-7,492
Bay.....	-133,686
Bradford.....	-37,142
Brevard.....	-122,313
Broward.....	-2,669,942
Calhoun.....	-6,942
Charlotte.....	-112,745
Citrus.....	-109,265
Clay.....	-38,565
Collier.....	-278,886
Columbia.....	-12,909
Miami-Dade.....	-3,823,508
DeSoto.....	-34,680
Dixie.....	-2,739
Escambia.....	-201,676
Flagler.....	-101,095
Franklin.....	-2,227
Gadsden.....	-28,116
Glades.....	-284
Gulf.....	-6,468
Hamilton.....	-3,045
Hardee.....	-11,240

Hendry.....	-16,218
Hernando.....	-20,447
Hillsborough.....	-1,275,938
Indian River.....	-38,120
Jackson.....	-20,825
Jefferson.....	-7,312
Lafayette.....	-1,844
Lake.....	-179,312
Lee.....	-413,560
Leon.....	-226,657
Liberty.....	-1,513
Manatee.....	-273,425
Marion.....	-126,036
Martin.....	-92,821
Monroe.....	-34,655
Nassau.....	-7,586
Okaloosa.....	-95,004
Orange.....	-1,324,888
Osceola.....	-182,657
Palm Beach.....	-635,522
Pasco.....	-139,764
Pinellas.....	-1,017,720
Polk.....	-432,619
Putnam.....	-19,510
St. Johns.....	-238,387
Santa Rosa.....	-69,978
Sarasota.....	-406,936
Sumter.....	-10,537
Suwannee.....	-39,694
Taylor.....	-55,708
Union.....	-6,552
Wakulla.....	-10,967
Walton.....	-6,591
Washington.....	-129,673
Washington Special.....	-1,288"

SECTION 2 - EDUCATION (ALL OTHER FUNDS)

I am committed to giving our children the best possible means for success, and I understand the toll autism spectrum disorders can take on a family. Autism is usually diagnosed in infancy or early childhood and is a lifelong neurological disability. Caregivers, educators, and health care professionals interacting with persons with autism spectrum disorders need easy access to information and resources to empower them to make informed decisions and improve the quality of life for these most vulnerable children. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line item:

**Specific Appropriation 58
 Page 10**

"58 SPECIAL CATEGORIES
 GRANTS AND AIDS - AUTISM PROGRAM
 FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND -410,952

The reduced appropriation in Specific Appropriation 58 shall be allocated as follows:

University of South Florida/Florida Mental Health Institute.	-72,076
University of Florida (College of Medicine).....	-49,981
University of Central Florida.....	-61,723
University of Miami (Department of Pediatrics) including -\$16,248 for activities in Broward County through Nova Southeastern University.....	-78,122
Florida Atlantic University.....	-39,089
University of Florida (Jacksonville).....	-52,086
Florida State University (College of Communications).....	-57,875"

I am committed to giving our children the best possible opportunities to realize their full potential, experiencing inclusion in their communities and maximizing their freedom and independence. Educators that interact with children with disabilities significantly improve the quality of life for these most vulnerable children. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line item:

**Specific Appropriation 62
 Page 11**

"62 SPECIAL CATEGORIES
 FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND
 FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND -820,732"

Specific Appropriation 91 includes a \$2,187,500 reduction in funding provided to Florida Atlantic University (FAU) for the Florida Energy Systems Consortium. FAU is currently exploring the use of the Gulf Stream, the strongest current in the world, as a renewable energy source. FAU is also working to be the nation's leading test center for ocean current technology, serving as a test site for these technologies while monitoring the environmental impacts. The funding for these initiatives is critical to establishing Florida's leadership role in renewable energy and environmental stewardship. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line item:

Specific Appropriation 91
Pages 16 and 17 – A portion of proviso language

"Florida Atlantic University..... -2,187,500"

SECTION 3 - HUMAN SERVICES

Specific Appropriations 128 and 129 reduce funding for provider reimbursement rates in the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. This reduction could affect 31,000 clients currently receiving Medicaid waiver services and place at greatest risk the more than 7,000 clients living in residential habilitation centers and group homes. This reduction could decrease quality of care and negatively impact the health and safety of some of our most vulnerable citizens. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line items:

Specific Appropriation 128
Pages 24 and 25

"128 SPECIAL CATEGORIES
HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES WAIVER
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND -5,610,126
FROM OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE
TRUST FUND -6,985,577

The reduced appropriations in Specific Appropriations 128 and 129 include reductions of \$6,125,693 from the General Revenue Fund and \$7,627,547 from Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund as a result of reducing provider rates for services provided through the Developmental Disabilities Services waivers, the Consumer Directed Care Plus Program waiver and the Family and Supported Living waiver, effective March 1, 2009. Adult dental services, personal care assistance, consumable medical supplies, durable medical equipment, environmental modifications, and transportation service rates contained in waiver service agreements that are at least 20 percent below the average rate paid by the agency for the same service in the same area where the service was provided during Fiscal Year 2007-2008 are specifically excluded from this reduction. The agency shall reduce rates across the included services and waivers proportionately until the required savings are achieved. The agency shall take the actions necessary to achieve this recurring reduction."

Specific Appropriation 129
Page 25

"129	SPECIAL CATEGORIES	
	COMMUNITY SUPPORTED LIVING WAIVER	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-515,567
	FROM OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE	
	TRUST FUND	-641,970"

Specific Appropriation 165 reduces funding for Adult Community Mental Health Services within the Department of Children and Families. This reduction could result in a loss of services to an estimated 5,092 individuals who suffer from serious and persistent mental illness. People with serious mental illnesses who do not receive community support and psychiatric care are likely to destabilize until they require hospitalization or become involved with the criminal justice system. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line item:

Specific Appropriation 165
Page 28

"165	SPECIAL CATEGORIES	
	GRANTS AND AIDS - COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-6,407,456
	FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND	-8,394"

Specific Appropriation 166 reduces funding for Children's Mental Health Services within the Department of Children and Families. This reduction will result in a loss of services to over 81 children with serious emotional disturbances and will likely result in an increase in school expulsions, more referrals to juvenile justice programs, and an increase in referrals to the Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Program (SIPP). Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line item:

Specific Appropriation 166
Page 28

"166	SPECIAL CATEGORIES	
	GRANTS AND AIDS - CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-407,360"

Specific Appropriation 177 reduces funding for Children's Substance Abuse Services within the Department of Children and Families. An estimated 704 children and adolescents who suffer from drug or alcohol abuse will lose critical intervention, treatment and detoxification services. More than half of the adolescents served are involved in the criminal justice system and one-third are involved in the child welfare system. This reduction will give the courts, schools, and juvenile justice systems fewer options to appropriately assist these children. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line item:

Specific Appropriation 177
Page 30

"177	SPECIAL CATEGORIES	
	GRANTS AND AIDS - CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENT	
	SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-1,549,543"

Specific Appropriation 178 reduces funding for Adult Substance Abuse Services within the Department of Children and Families. An estimated 661 adults who suffer from drug or alcohol abuse will lose services. Nearly two-thirds of adults receiving substance abuse services are involved with the criminal justice system and this reduction will give the courts, child welfare, and criminal justice systems fewer options. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line item:

Specific Appropriation 178
Page 30

"178	SPECIAL CATEGORIES	
	GRANTS AND AIDS - COMMUNITY SUBSTANCE	
	ABUSE SERVICES	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-1,455,074"

In these difficult economic times, our state's most vulnerable citizens are relying on public assistance more than ever and they need our help and compassion. In 2008, the Food Stamp Program served over 400,000 additional recipients – a 29 percent increase in just one year. Specific Appropriations 179, 180, 181 and 182 reduce funding for the Comprehensive Eligibility Services (ACCESS) program within the Department of Children and Families which processes applications for food stamps, cash assistance and Medicaid. This reduction will hinder the processing of applications for critical programs at a time when families are applying for assistance in record numbers. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line items:

Specific Appropriation 179
Page 30

"179	SALARIES AND BENEFITS	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-1,000,000
	FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND	1,000,000"

Specific Appropriation 180
Page 30

"180	OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-33,164
	FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND	-30,907"

Specific Appropriation 181
Page 30

"181	EXPENSES	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-2,203,708
	FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND	-2,054,679"

Specific Appropriation 182
Page 30

"182	SPECIAL CATEGORIES	
	CONTRACTED SERVICES	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-358,148
	FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND	-333,776"

Specific Appropriation 215 reduces funding for the Community Care for the Elderly program within the Department of Elder Affairs. This program provides personal care services to seniors who are age 60 or older and are at risk of nursing home placement, allowing them to remain in their own homes or in the home of a caregiver. Reductions to this program could cause seniors to lose their independence and be relocated to a nursing home. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line item:

Specific Appropriation 215
Page 33

"215	SPECIAL CATEGORIES	
	GRANTS AND AIDS - COMMUNITY CARE FOR THE	
	ELDERLY	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-1,745,307
	FROM OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE	
	TRUST FUND	-135,483"

Specific Appropriation 237 reduces funding for the Crisis Counseling Program within the Department of Health by 29 percent. This reduction could result in the termination of the program, eliminating the department's ability to provide counseling, support services, and accurate medical information to women in crisis pregnancies. These vital services promote and encourage childbirth and adoption and assist low-income pregnant women in making decisions that will have profound long-term effects on them and their families. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line item:

Specific Appropriation 237
Page 35

"237	SPECIAL CATEGORIES		
	GRANTS AND AIDS - CRISIS COUNSELING		
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND		-574,728"

Specific Appropriation 260 reduces funding for the Children's Medical Services (CMS) Network within the Department of Health. This reduction to the statewide network of multi-disciplinary providers – hospitals, medical schools, private doctors, regional medical centers, medical specialty care centers, and CMS clinics impacts approximately 900 children with special health care needs who will not have access to highly specialized medical and surgical services at the university based medical centers. These services are not generally available in communities across the state. Children impacted by this reduction are enrolled in the CMS Safety Net program and have no other source of funds or insurance to pay for medically necessary care. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line item:

Specific Appropriation 260
Page 37

"260	SPECIAL CATEGORIES		
	GRANTS AND AIDS - CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES NETWORK		
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND		-991,724"

SECTION 4 - CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS

As a senator, attorney general, and now as Governor, the safety and security of Florida's citizens and visitors have been my top priorities. It is critical that our state's correctional probation officers are able to properly monitor the more than 112,000 offenders supervised in our communities. The reductions in Specific Appropriations 327A through 341 could potentially increase the caseloads of probation officers to levels that jeopardize public safety and our efforts to proactively work with offenders to assist them in becoming productive members of their communities. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line items:

Specific Appropriation 327A
Page 43

"APPROVED SALARY RATE				-2,023,103
327A	SALARIES AND BENEFITS	POSITIONS		-54.00
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-2,995,741"

Specific Appropriation 328
Page 43

"328	OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES			
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-3,396"

Specific Appropriation 329
Page 43

"329	EXPENSES			
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-969,900"

Specific Appropriation 330
Page 43

"330	OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY			
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-25,311"

Specific Appropriation 331
Page 43

"331	SPECIAL CATEGORIES			
	CONTRACTED SERVICES			
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-6,714"

Specific Appropriation 332
Page 43

"332	SPECIAL CATEGORIES			
	SALARY INCENTIVE PAYMENTS			
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-24,056"

Specific Appropriation 332A
Page 44

"APPROVED SALARY RATE				-359,301
332A	SALARIES AND BENEFITS	POSITIONS	-8.00	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-489,992"

Specific Appropriation 333
Page 44

"333	EXPENSES			
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-93,035"

Specific Appropriation 334
Page 44

"334	SPECIAL CATEGORIES			
	SALARY INCENTIVE PAYMENTS			
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-4,603"

Specific Appropriation 334A
Page 44

"APPROVED SALARY RATE	-55,926		
334A SALARIES AND BENEFITS POSITIONS	-2.00		
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-88,784"

Specific Appropriation 335
Page 44

"335 EXPENSES			
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-23,515"

Specific Appropriation 335A
Page 44

"APPROVED SALARY RATE	-446,006		
335A SALARIES AND BENEFITS POSITIONS	-10.00		
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-608,818"

Specific Appropriation 336
Page 44

"336 EXPENSES			
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-150,633"

Specific Appropriation 337
Page 44

"337 SPECIAL CATEGORIES			
SALARY INCENTIVE PAYMENTS			
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-9,640"

Specific Appropriation 338
Page 44

"338 SPECIAL CATEGORIES			
ELECTRONIC MONITORING			
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-502,118"

Specific Appropriation 338A
Page 44

"APPROVED SALARY RATE	-721,329		
338A SALARIES AND BENEFITS POSITIONS	-14.00		
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-966,436"

Specific Appropriation 339
Page 44

"339 EXPENSES			
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-113,220"

Specific Appropriation 340
Page 45

"340	SPECIAL CATEGORIES			
	LOCAL COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROJECT			
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-32,000"

Specific Appropriation 341
Page 45

"341	SPECIAL CATEGORIES			
	SALARY INCENTIVE PAYMENTS			
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-5,456"

Being able to participate in substance abuse treatment and educational programs in the state's correctional facilities is critical for inmates seeking to reenter their communities as productive members. Additionally, the reductions in Specific Appropriations 358A through 367 would result in over 100 key staff members, including substance abuse counselors, educators and chaplains, being laid off. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line items:

Specific Appropriation 358A
Page 46

"APPROVED SALARY RATE				-166,380
358A	SALARIES AND BENEFITS	POSITIONS	-4.00	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-229,374"

Specific Appropriation 359
Page 46

"359	EXPENSES			
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-6,266"

Specific Appropriation 360A
Page 46

"APPROVED SALARY RATE				-2,910,466
360A	SALARIES AND BENEFITS	POSITIONS	-81.00	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-4,104,828"

Specific Appropriation 361
Page 46

"361	OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES			
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-39,775"

Specific Appropriation 362
Page 46

"362	EXPENSES			
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-107,059"

Specific Appropriation 363
Page 46

"363	OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY			
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-2,080"

Specific Appropriation 364
Page 46

"364	SPECIAL CATEGORIES			
	CONTRACTED SERVICES			
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-3,138"

Specific Appropriation 364A
Page 46

"APPROVED SALARY RATE				-966,448
364A	SALARIES AND BENEFITS	POSITIONS	-22.00	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-1,322,015"

Specific Appropriation 365
Page 46

"365	OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES			
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-9,622"

Specific Appropriation 366
Page 47

"366	EXPENSES			
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-29,520"

Specific Appropriation 367
Page 47

"367	SPECIAL CATEGORIES			
	CONTRACTED SERVICES			
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-216,820"

The Guardian ad Litem Program provides a vital service to Florida's children by representing abused, abandoned, or neglected children in dependency proceedings. The budget reductions presented in Specific Appropriations 375 through 380 will deprive approximately 1,100 children of vital Guardian ad Litem advocacy. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line items:

Specific Appropriation 375
Page 47

"APPROVED SALARY RATE				-819,651
375	SALARIES AND BENEFITS	POSITIONS	-19.00	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-1,124,074"

Specific Appropriation 376

Page 47

"376	OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-20,000"

Specific Appropriation 377

Page 47

"377	EXPENSES	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-74,449"

Specific Appropriation 378

Page 47

"378	OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-1,600"

Specific Appropriation 379

Page 48

"379	SPECIAL CATEGORIES	
	GRANTS AND AIDS - COURT SYSTEM SERVICES	
	FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-35,706"

Specific Appropriation 380

Page 48

"380	SPECIAL CATEGORIES	
	CONTRACTED SERVICES	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-68,936"

Prevention programs are one of the first steps to keep youth from entering the juvenile justice system and specific programs that target the needs of girls are in short supply. The reduction for the PACE Center for Girls could result in 87 girls in need of help not receiving that assistance. In addition, counseling services for troubled youth and runaways are essential to helping repair broken family relationships. The reduction for the children-in-need-of-services/family-in-need-of-services (CINS/FINS) program will result in an estimated 708 youth losing critical services. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line items:

Specific Appropriation 578A

Page 66

"578A	SPECIAL CATEGORIES	
	PACE CENTERS	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-404,549"

Specific Appropriation 581A

Page 66

"581A	SPECIAL CATEGORIES	
	GRANTS AND AIDS - CHILDREN/FAMILIES IN	
	NEED OF SERVICES	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-994,435"

The Parole Commission is responsible for reviewing cases of parole-eligible inmates, conducting revocation hearings for violators of post-release supervision, conducting clemency reviews and awarding restoration-of-civil-rights certificates. The impact of the budget reductions in Specific Appropriations 614 through 615 will be an increase in the restoration-of-civil-rights case backlog. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line items:

Specific Appropriation 614
Page 70

"APPROVED SALARY RATE	-144,656		
614 SALARIES AND BENEFITS POSITIONS	-15.50		
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-300,162"

Specific Appropriation 615
Page 70

"615 EXPENSES			
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND			-20,000"

**SECTION 5 - NATURAL RESOURCES/ENVIRONMENT/GROWTH
MANAGEMENT/TRANSPORTATION**

Access to Florida's natural places is a vital part of what makes our state such a wonderful place to visit and live. Florida is at the forefront of the nation's land protection efforts and continues to serve as a model for the rest of the country. Over the past 30 years, we as Floridians have committed to preserving and conserving roughly 3.6 million acres of land under the Preservation 2000 Program and its successor, the Florida Forever Program. I remain committed to Florida Forever's wide range of goals, including public land management and maintenance, increased protection by acquisition of conservation easements, increased public access, environmental restoration, and water resource protection and supply. While I understand the difficulty the legislature faced in re-crafting a balanced budget for the current fiscal year, I am concerned with the manner in which the reductions to the Florida Forever Program have been structured. Holding some programs harmless while suspending the funding of others lacks consistency. While I recognize the fiscal challenges we face in the coming year will affect long-standing priorities, I am inclined to support the investment we have made to preserve our green spaces in the current fiscal year. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line items:

Specific Appropriation 620A
Page 72

"620A FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY			
CONSERVATION AND RURAL LAND PROTECTION			
EASEMENTS AND AGREEMENTS			
FROM FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAM TRUST			
FUND			-10,500,000"

Specific Appropriation 684A
Page 79

"684A FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY
LAND ACQUISITION, ENVIRONMENTALLY
ENDANGERED, UNIQUE/ IRREPLACEABLE LANDS,
STATEWIDE
FROM FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAM TRUST
FUND -63,000,000"

Specific Appropriation 689A
Page 80

"689A FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY
DEBT SERVICE - FLORIDA FOREVER BONDS - NEW
SERIES
FROM LAND ACQUISITION TRUST FUND . . . -4,265,000

For Fiscal Year 2008-2009, the Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration shall not issue any additional series of Florida Forever bonds."

Specific Appropriation 689B
Page 80

"689B FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY
LAND ACQUISITION, ENVIRONMENTALLY
ENDANGERED, UNIQUE/ IRREPLACEABLE LANDS,
STATEWIDE
FROM FLORIDA FOREVER TRUST FUND . . . -105,000,000"

Specific Appropriation 690
Page 80

"690 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND
NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY
AID TO WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS-LAND
ACQUISITION
FROM FLORIDA FOREVER TRUST FUND . . . -90,000,000
FROM WATER MANAGEMENT LANDS TRUST
FUND -3,540,000"

OTHER SECTIONS

Section 25
Page 118

"SECTION 25. There is appropriated \$20,443,442 to the Department of Environmental Protection from the Florida Forever Trust Fund for the purposes of implementing s. 259.105(22)(a)1. and 2., Florida Statutes."

SECTION 6 - GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Specific Appropriation 764 reduces funding for School Readiness Services provided by the Agency for Workforce Innovation by 4 percent. An estimated 1,450 children who need school readiness services while their parents work may lose those services if this reduction is implemented. Parents who are already struggling to make ends meet that then lose their childcare services run the risk of becoming entirely dependent on government cash assistance. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line item:

**Specific Appropriation 764
Page 88**

"764	SPECIAL CATEGORIES	
	GRANTS AND AIDS - SCHOOL READINESS	
	SERVICES	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-5,849,247"

The Quick Action Closing (QAC) Fund program helps to expand and diversify Florida's economy by enabling the state to respond quickly to extraordinary economic opportunities. There are certain projects for which the competition to retain or attract a business is so great that opportunities may be lost if flexible and readily available incentive funds are not available. The QAC Fund program enables us to effectively compete for projects that provide significant capital investments and create high-wage jobs. It is especially important that we keep the competitive flexibility that the QAC Fund program provides. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line item:

**Specific Appropriation 828A
Page 94**

"828A	SPECIAL CATEGORIES	
	QUICK ACTION CLOSING FUND	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-11,781,543"



Maintaining VISIT FLORIDA's funding will serve to invigorate Florida's travel industry and protect the vital state tax revenue generated by our visitors. Being a catalyst for the state's tourism industry, VISIT FLORIDA matches every \$1 in state funding with \$2 in private sector investment in cooperative marketing, sales, promotions and public relations efforts. In 2007, tourism comprised 19 percent of Florida's total taxable sales, returning \$3.9 billion to the state in the form of sales taxes and generating \$65.5 billion in direct economic impact. We cannot afford to forgo an existing revenue source at a time when Florida depends on every dollar. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line items:

Specific Appropriation 836
Page 95

"836	SPECIAL CATEGORIES	
	GRANTS AND AIDS - FLORIDA COMMISSION ON	
	TOURISM	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-4,649,995
	FROM TOURISM PROMOTION TRUST FUND .	-5,272,480"

OTHER SECTIONS

Section 50
Pages 120 and 121

"OFFICE OF TOURISM TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
Tourism Promotion Trust Fund.....	5,272,480"

Specific Appropriations 942 and 949 reduce funding available for the purchase of body armor, necessary to protect members of the Florida National Guard during training and state emergency operations. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line items:

Specific Appropriation 942
Page 106

"942	EXPENSES	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-219,250"

Specific Appropriation 949
Page 106

"949	EXPENSES	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-104,497"

Specific Appropriation 945 reduces recurring funding available to support tuition assistance to members of the Florida National Guard. This funding supports undergraduate level education courses and serves as a primary tool for recruitment and retention. This recurring reduction may affect the department's ongoing commitments and future recruitment efforts, which could negatively impact the readiness of the Florida National Guard. Therefore, I do hereby withhold my approval of the following line item:

Specific Appropriation 945
Page 106

"945	SPECIAL CATEGORIES	
	NATIONAL GUARD TUITION ASSISTANCE	
	FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-300,000"

The portions of Senate Bill 2-A identified above with my objections are vetoed, and all other portions of Senate Bill 2-A are approved.

Sincerely,



Charlie Crist