

*****MEDIA ALERT***MEDIA ALERT*****

07.09.10

***STATEMENT FROM SEN. KAREN CARTER PETERSON
GOV. JINDAL VETOES BILL FOR LOUISIANA'S CHILDREN AGAIN***

Following is a statement from District 5 State Senator Karen Carter Peterson regarding the Governor's veto of Senate Bill 584.

"Governor Jindal had an opportunity to sign SB 584 - the Louisiana Statewide School Facilities Authority - into law and help resolve some of Louisiana's school facilities issues. Students are going to school in buildings that are literally crumbling down around them. This issue has not gone away. The Legislature has recognized three years in a row that school facilities need improvement. Nearly every education-related organization - the Cowen Institute for Public Education Initiatives at Tulane University, Jefferson Parish School Board, Louisiana Association of Educators, Louisiana Association of School Executives, Louisiana Public Facilities Authority, Louisiana School Boards Association, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), and Louisiana Federation of Teachers - supported the legislation, but Governor Jindal does not share their empathy. On the Friday before the 4th of July weekend, Governor Jindal vetoed SB 584.

This bill would have assisted local districts in constructing new buildings and renovating existing ones by providing funds from the federal government and private sources. It would have allowed our state to step up to the plate, like 41 other states have done, and provided some sort of funding for our locals for school construction. It would have helped Louisiana's school facilities move from the bottom of the barrel toward the top.

The Legislature has recognized three years in a row that school facilities are an issue that will not go away. Students are currently suffering in buildings that are freezing in the winter and sweltering in the summer. Everyday, they go to buildings that have lead paint chipping off the ceiling, mold covering the walls and bathrooms that don't work. They should not have to wait any longer. It is past time for our principals, teachers, and students to be able to focus on their school work rather than the building that is falling down around them.

Governor Bobby Jindal clearly does not realize that when he vetoes this type of legislation, he is vetoing opportunities for our children. It uncovers the Governor's true priorities - public education and the children of our state are clearly not among them."

For additional information, contact Sen. Carter Peterson's district office at 504-568-8346.

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