

March 21, 2006

The Honorable Greg J. Curtis
Speaker of the House
and
The Honorable John L. Valentine
President of the Senate

Dear Speaker Curtis and President Valentine:

After careful consideration and study, I have decided to veto H.B. 151, ADJUSTMENTS IN FUNDING FOR CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT, and have transmitted it to the Lieutenant Governor for filing.

I am supportive of the concurrent enrollment program and appreciate the opportunities given to the 25,000 Utah students participating therein. While I recognize the need to manage the growing impact and potential burden on Utah's institutions of higher education, I am concerned that this bill would unfairly preclude some students from participating in concurrent enrollment courses.

Specifically, H.B. 151 provides no mechanism for low income students qualifying for fee waivers to receive financial assistance for participation in concurrent enrollment programs. The bill will impose additional financial burdens on Utah students – *i.e.* an additional university fee of approximately \$90, in connection with a university registration fee, a textbook fee, and a district fee. In addition, H.B. 151 allows districts to receive funding only for those students who are enrolled for concurrent credit, potentially denying participation to economically disadvantaged students.

Furthermore, because this year's budget is sufficient to cover concurrent enrollment funding, I feel this bill is unnecessary. In future years, I encourage the creation of a sustainable solution, recommended by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Commissioner of Higher Education, that would not restrict the participation of economically disadvantaged students or rural students.

For these reasons, I have decided to veto this bill. I look forward to participating in future efforts to develop a financially viable and sustainable solution for Utah's concurrent enrollment program.

Sincerely,

Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.
Governor