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Office of the Governor

June 12, 2025

The Honorable Francisco Aguilar
Nevada Secretary of State
101 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Re: Assembly Bill 397 of the 83rd Legislative Session

Dear Secretary of State Aguilar:

I am forwarding to you, for filing within the time limit set forth in the Nevada Constitution and without my approval, Assembly Bill 397 ("AB 397"), which is titled as follows:

AN ACT relating to higher education; revising provisions governing certain waivers of fees provided by the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada; revising the criteria of eligibility for a waiver of fees by the Board of Regents for certain persons who are or were unaccompanied for a certain period of time; revising the criteria of eligibility for a waiver of fees by the Board of Regents for certain Native American students; providing for the continuity of waivers previously provided for certain Native American students; repealing certain provisions requiring the Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education to cause to be analyzed certain natural materials upon the request of a resident of this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto

AB 397 would significantly and unintentionally reduce the impact of existing educational benefits for those serving in Nevada's National Guard. By converting fee waivers from a 'first dollar' to a 'last dollar' model, Guardsmen who currently benefit from full fee waivers before applying GI Bill funds would now be required to use their GI Bill benefits first—potentially exhausting those funds more quickly. This change would reduce their ability to use GI Bill support for essential non-tuition costs such as room and board. I urge the

Nevada System of Higher Education and lawmakers to collaborate with military and veteran stakeholders to refine this bill during the interim, ensuring that the promise made to our service members is fully honored.

Because AB 397 risks creating unintended and detrimental consequences for the members of Nevada's National Guard, I cannot support it.

For these reasons, I veto this bill and return it without my signature or approval.

Respectfully submitted,



JOE LOMBARDO

Governor of Nevada

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Stavros Anthony, President of the Senate (without enclosure)
The Honorable Nicole Cannizzaro, Senate Majority Leader (without enclosure)
The Honorable Steve Yeager, Speaker of the Assembly (without enclosure)
Brendan Bucy, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure)
Bonnie Borda Hoffecker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)
Diane Thornton, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Director (without enclosure)
Asher Killian, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)