

July 1, 2021

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Clay J. Schexnayder
Speaker of the House
Louisiana House of Representatives
Post Office Box 94062
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9062

RE: Veto of House Bill 38 of the 2021 Regular Session

Dear Speaker Schexnayder:

Please be advised that I have vetoed House Bill 38 of the 2021 Regular Session.

The transparency this bill purports to provide would require local school systems to participate in the Louisiana Checkbook system. Exempted, however, are public school governing authorities that have an annual student enrollment of 2500 or less. It is unclear why small systems would be exempt from the fiscal transparency this bill seeks to provide for. Nevertheless, the Louisiana Checkbook system has taken not only years to develop and bring state agencies online, but it has also taken millions and millions of state taxpayer dollars to accomplish. Our local school systems simply do not have the resources or technology to comply with this unfunded mandate.

Sincerely,

John Bel Edwards
Governor

cc: Honorable Patrick Page Cortez
Louisiana Senate President