

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, I have vetoed Enrolled Senate Bill 1721.

Both this bill and House Bill 3006 would have extended the life of the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education. I reiterate the objections stated in my veto of House Bill 3006.

Since that veto, we have confirmed that this advisory council was routinely conducting meetings in violation of the Open Meeting Act. That confirmation turns this from a question of unnecessary government into one of basic accountability. Transparency and compliance with the law are not optional. They are the bare minimum for any state body asking to remain in existence.

Continuing this advisory council under those circumstances would be irresponsible. Giving outside interest groups even more control over its appointments only makes the bill worse.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Enrolled Senate Bill 1721.