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May 9, 2017

The Honorable Rick Scott
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott,

The League of Women Voters of Florida calls upon you to exercise your executive power and veto the budget presented to you on May 8, 2017 based on the following three points:

1. Education was an omnibus bill pieced together at the cost of our children at the end of session. The Florida House rejected a reasonable Senate education budget. The House is determined to starve public schools and expand privately run charter schools. The proposed budget harms 90% of our children.
 - a. Reduces base funding for each student (BSA) by \$27.07. In fact, the proposed 2017-18 BSA is lower than the 2007-08 BSA, a decade ago;
 - b. Offers the lowest increase in overall funding since 2011-12, providing just \$241.4 million statewide or 1.2%;
 - c. Fails to reach per student funding levels seen almost a decade ago. In 2007-08, per student funding was \$7,305. This proposed budget would be less than \$7,220.72, and;
 - d. Takes away the funding our schools should be receiving because of the growth in property values.
2. No Florida Forever funding is a willful ignorance of the voters' wishes. For the third year, the Florida Legislature has failed to properly implement the Water and Land Conservation Amendment (Amendment 1, 2014). Nearly 75% of Florida voters demanded that the State of Florida set aside conservation land for aquifer recharge, wildlife corridors, and public enjoyment. Florida Forever was not just underfunded - it was zeroed out in the budget and millions of voters are left with complete disregard this year.
3. The lack of transparency in the process enabled last-minute bills and amendments to be passed. Many legislators are on record stating they did not have the opportunity to read and fully comprehend bills presented at the end after emerging from behind closed doors. It is the job of every elected official representing their constituents to be able to vote in an informed manner and with complete transparency of the process.

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Millions of Floridians are looking to you and the power of your veto to right these wrongs that will affect them. The education of our children and protection of our land and water are equally precious resources for Florida's future. We ask your support in protecting them both. Do the right thing and veto this budget, Governor Scott.

Respectfully Submitted,



Pamela S. Goodman, President
League of Women Voters of Florida

Cc: Florida Senate
Florida House of Representatives