



April 23, 2025

Statement on the Veto of Senate Bill 451, TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE EDUCATION OF CERTAIN STUDENTS; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

Bentonville, AR – State Representative Scott Richardson was notified late Tuesday evening that Senate Bill 451 was vetoed and being returned to the Arkansas Senate. In part the letter from the governor acknowledged the very concerning issue of violence in classrooms and the need to find a “solution that is more tailored to the needs of our local public schools”. The Governor’s letter also committed to finding a solution with “I have directed the Secretaries of the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services to work with interested parties to come up with a solution...”

“Unfortunately, Arkansas is not immune to the epidemic of escalating violence in our schools, and our students and staff are in desperate need of a solution. Senate Bill 451 was an attempt to initialize a pilot program to help us find a solution to this crisis. Today, I spoke directly with Secretary Olivia and the governor’s staff to relay the urgency needed by schools across this state, to address this crisis. In those conversations, I was provided assurances that the crisis at hand is of great priority for the Governor, and the Department of Education. I look forward to the solution these experts will provide in the coming months,” said Scott. “A safe work and education environment is critical for Arkansas students and staff, and my commitment to the educators across the state, and especially district 13, is that I will continue to work alongside our educators, the governor’s office, and all state departments to provide whatever legislative tools are necessary to address this crisis.”

Representative Richardson is serving his second term where he enjoys membership on the following legislative committees: Arkansas House Judiciary; Arkansas House City, County, Local Affairs; Arkansas House Advanced Communication and Information Technology; Arkansas Legislative Joint Budget; and Arkansas Legislative Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

For a full listing of Representative Richardson’s accomplishments, bills he worked on, biography, and positions please visit <https://rscottrichardson.org>.

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