

# STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

June 5, 2015

The Honorable Colorado Senate  
State Capitol  
200 E. Colfax Ave.  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Members of the Colorado Senate:

This is to inform you that I will neither sign nor veto Senate Bill 15-067, "Concerning an Increase in the Class of Offense for Certain Acts of Assault Against Persons Engaged in Performing Their Duties as Emergency Responders." Therefore, this bill will become law at 12:01 a.m. on September 1, 2015. This letter sets forth my reasons for allowing this bill to become law without my signature.

Every day, first responders like peace officers, firefighters, and EMS personnel put their health, well-being, and lives on the line in service of others, and we recognize that emergency medical care providers put their own safety at risk in the same way. The law should reflect that. We applaud the policy that underlies this bill, which is why we are permitting it to pass into law. However, we note the implementation delay that pushes the financial burden off by one year, avoiding the budget restrictions for FY 2015-16.

The State's upcoming budget challenges have been long discussed, and though the underlying policy is the correct one, the bill does require potentially significant growth in spending. It will constrain our ability to fund other priorities, and effectively these are some of the first dollars spent for FY 2016-17.

For these reasons I am allowing Senate Bill 15-067 to become law without my signature. We hope to work with General Assembly next year on agreements that avoid delaying significant costs for the purposes of passage outside of the normal budget framework.

Sincerely,

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor