



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 07 2019

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1451 without my signature.

This bill makes it a misdemeanor to pay signature gatherers based on the number of signatures they collect on a state or local initiative, referendum or recall petition, and requires that at least 10% of signatures on a state initiative petition be collected by unpaid circulators.

While I appreciate the intent of this legislation to incentivize grassroots support for the initiative process, I believe this measure could make the qualification of many initiatives cost-prohibitive, thereby having the opposite effect. I am a strong supporter of California's system of direct democracy and am reluctant to sign any bill that erects barriers to citizen participation in the electoral process.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom