To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 346 without my signature.

The bill would add police officers employed by a local school district, county office of education, or community college district to the list of public employees entitled to Labor Code section 4850 temporary disability benefits.

While I appreciate the Legislature’s intent, and do not take lightly the important public service provided by police officers in education settings, this bill would significantly expand 4850 benefits that can be negotiated locally through the collective bargaining process. Many local school districts face financial stress, and the addition of a well-intentioned but costly benefit should be left to local entities that are struggling to balance their priorities.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Gavin Newsom