To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 859 without my signature.

This bill requires the California Department of Social Services, in consultation with the Judicial Council, to convene a stakeholder group to make recommendations related to juvenile dependency proceedings in an effort to improve child and family outcomes in juvenile dependency court and enhance collaboration between juvenile dependency courts and child welfare services.

While I support the goal of this bill, it duplicates the purpose and efforts of the existing Child Welfare Council.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom