



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 12 2019

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 518 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit pretrial settlement offers in California Public Records Act (CPRA) litigation.

While transparency is essential to maintaining trust in the work of public agencies, this bill does little to advance that ideal. Preventing public agencies from making good-faith efforts to settle litigation by providing additional records that may have been inadvertently overlooked or mistakenly withheld actually delays timely disclosure. This legislation would provide a perverse incentive for more litigation instead of more transparency.

For these reasons, I cannot support this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line.
Gavin Newsom