



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 29 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1138 without my signature.

This bill would require the operator of a social media website or application to prohibit a person known to be under 13 years old from creating an account unless consent is obtained from the person's parent or guardian.

As a parent of four, I understand and care deeply about the importance of protections for safe consumption of media and technology by children.

Existing federal law requires operators of internet websites or online services to obtain parental or guardian consent before collecting personal information from a child known to be under 13 years old. States have the ability to enforce this law.

Given its overlap with federal law, this bill would not meaningfully expand protections for children, and it may result in unnecessary confusion.

As I agree with the spirit of this bill, my Administration is open to exploring ways to build upon current law to expand safeguards for children online.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom