



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 30 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2054 without my signature.

This bill would establish a grant pilot program administered by the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to stimulate and support community involvement in emergency response activities that do not require a law enforcement officer.

Community organizations have a critical role to play in responding to our vulnerable neighbors and community members in crisis.

Many situations involving those who are unhoused, facing mental health challenges, have been exposed to violence, or are experiencing substance use issues may be better addressed with resources and pathways for long-term healing rather than a punitive approach. We must also address the reality that people of color and other marginalized members of our communities are disproportionately harmed by interactions with law enforcement, too often in instances where a badge and a gun are unnecessary.

The underlying goal of this legislation is important and implementing an effective solution will help our communities. Unfortunately, OES is not the appropriate location for the pilot program proposed in this legislation.

My Administration will work with the Legislature and stakeholders during the next legislative session on an implementable solution. Should a grant program be the consensus, such a pilot should be established through the State Budget process.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

