



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 28 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2405 without my signature.

This bill would declare a state policy that every individual in California has the right to safe, decent, and affordable housing. The bill also requires state departments and agencies to consider this policy when revising or adopting policies, regulations, and grant criteria.

This is a laudable goal that I share, and undoubtedly, California must continue to do more to address homelessness. Regrettably, however, I cannot support this bill considering the cost implications of such a policy, estimated at over \$10 billion annually.

Moreover, I have always maintained that our efforts must come with greater accountability and better results. Although well-intentioned, this bill is duplicative of existing efforts and may ultimately force us to expend resources without commensurately creating new housing or services for people experiencing homelessness.

I am committed to working with the Legislature and local government partners on a detailed strategy to improve behavioral health outcomes and increase housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness. To make progress, we need more than policy goals. We need tangible funding strategies and legal requirements – this means challenging accepted norms and rejecting the status quo and identifying necessary revenues.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

