OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 30 2020

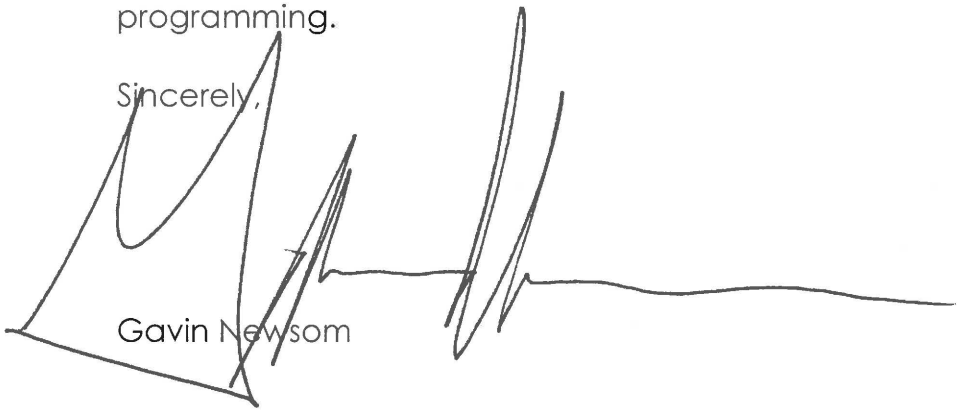
To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 555 without my signature.

This bill would limit the amount that a county jail can charge for items in the jail canteen and the per minute rate that can be charged for phone calls and video communications. It would also prohibit commission provisions in telephone and communications service contracts and would require such telephone and communication service contracts to be negotiated and awarded to the lowest cost provider.

While I strongly support the goals of this bill – reducing the financial stress that families of those in jail face and supporting the ability of those incarcerated to remain in contact with their families – I cannot support this bill in its current form. I am concerned it will have the unintended consequence of reducing important rehabilitative and educational programming for individuals in custody. I am committed to working with the Legislature and stakeholders to address this issue in the next legislative session in a manner that mitigates impacts on programming.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom