OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 05 2021

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

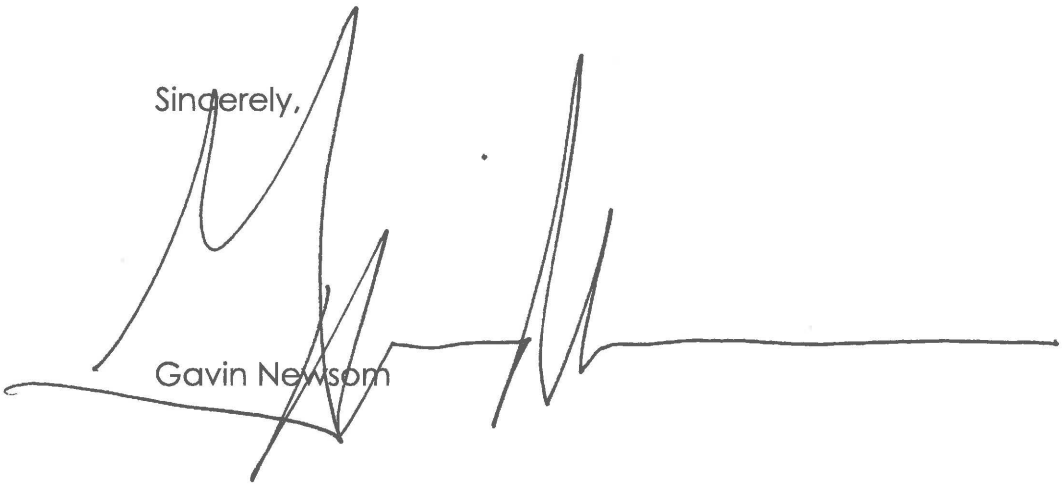
I am returning Assembly Bill 1444 without my signature.

This bill would impose requirements on the specific information included and formatting of agreements between a food delivery platform and a food facility entered into or modified after January 1, 2022, and prohibit food delivery platforms from charging a food facility for certain forwarded calls.

Third party apps and listing websites have created opportunities for consumers to find and support more of their local dining places. We have significantly increased oversight of food delivery companies in recent years. Last year I signed AB 2149 (Chapter 125, Statutes of 2020), which required a food delivery platform to first obtain an agreement with a food facility prior to taking orders or delivering meals on their behalf. It has been less than one year since these provisions took effect. AB 1444 would prescribe the specific content and format of these agreements, triggering companies to again modify their contracts without a clear, additional public benefit.

Further, companies have stated that call forwarding tracking numbers, a focus of AB 1444, are no longer used. I appreciate these companies voluntarily ceasing the practice of charging restaurants simply for connecting calls, as many small businesses, particularly restaurants, survive on small margins.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom