



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2021

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1456 without my signature.

This bill would replace the existing Cal Grant financial aid program with new Cal Grant 2 and Cal Grant 4 awards, for students receiving new awards beginning with the 2024-25 academic year.

Expanding access to financial aid has been a priority for my Administration. During my first year as Governor, I worked with the Legislature to provide access awards of up to \$6,000 for students with dependent children. In partnership with the Legislature, we recently made historic investments in our financial aid system, including over \$235 million in ongoing resources to expand Cal Grant eligibility for community college students, and a combined \$632 million in ongoing resources to focus the Middle Class Scholarship Program on reducing students' total cost of attendance. This bill seeks to replace those investments prior to their full implementation.

I agree with the author that making the Cal Grant program simpler to navigate would benefit our students and their families. However, this bill results in significant cost pressures to the state, likely in the hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Future changes to the financial aid system of this magnitude should be considered as a part of the annual budget process.

For these reasons, I am returning this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Newsom'. The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right. It is positioned over the printed name 'Gavin Newsom'.

Gavin Newsom