



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 06 2021

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 990 without my signature.

This bill would establish the right of visitation as a protected civil right for people that are incarcerated, change the standard of review for when a custodial authority seeks to limit the civil rights of incarcerated individuals, and restrict the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR's) power to deny a person visitation rights.

My Administration has made it a priority to reform our state's rehabilitation processes, including visitation rights. In fact, this year's budget added a third day of weekly in-person visitation at all CDCR institutions and included funding to provide visitors with free transportation on select days throughout the year to all prisons. While I am in strong support of expanding and increasing visitation opportunities, the heightened standard in this legislation is likely to result in extensive and costly litigation from individuals denied visitation for what may be valid and serious safety and security concerns. I urge the author to work with CDCR to find a solution that expands access to visitation in a manner that protects all parties.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

