



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 25 2022

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1348 without my signature.

This bill would require the Surgeon General to convene a Commission on Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) and Youth Football to investigate issues related to the risks of brain injury associated with participation in youth tackle football. The bill would also require the commission to recommend strategies to reduce this risk, including the minimum appropriate age for participation and publish a report by July 1, 2025.

I am deeply committed to the health and safety of California's children. Youth sports, such as youth tackle football, are an important part of our children's physical and mental health. In 2019, I signed the California Youth Football Act to establish a comprehensive safety framework, including the tracking of youth sports injuries, for youth tackle football, which took effect in January 2021.

The effectiveness of these recently implemented safety measures has not been sufficiently assessed. More research is needed to better understand current safety measures and the risks. Furthermore, this bill would require more than \$2 million to implement, which was not accounted for in the budget.

With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and



priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.

The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Newton', written over the printed name. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'G' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gavin Newton