



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 29 2022

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1794 without my signature.

This bill would provide several paths whereby a foster child or adopted Nonminor dependent may petition for the reinstatement of their biological parent's rights. This bill would additionally require counties to pursue a postadoption sibling contact agreement and facilitate a child and family team meeting in all adoption cases to determine whether the child would benefit from sibling contact.

While I understand the author's intent, there are existing legal pathways for foster children and legal adults to petition for reinstatement of their parents' rights, and additional work is needed to determine if those pathways are insufficient. Additionally, implementation of this bill would likely result in ongoing costs of tens of millions of dollars 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,

Gavin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized and extends horizontally to the right.