



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 25 2022

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2069 without my signature.

This bill would create a Home Health Aide scholarship program within the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) to increase enrollment in home health aide training programs and increase the home health aide workforce.

I support the author's goal of expanding the home health aide workforce. However, this bill duplicates existing HCAI programs that provide funding and scholarships to support and expand the home health aide workforce throughout the state. An individual interested in becoming a home health aide can apply to HCAI's Allied Healthcare Scholarship Program for financial assistance.

Additionally, the Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget included \$45.5 million for the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Home and Community Based Services (CNA-HCBS) Initiative, a multi-year project to address critical workforce shortages, and promote equity and diversity in California's CNA and home health aide workforce. This amount was augmented by the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which provided California with \$75 million to address HCBS workforce needs. While I appreciate the intent of the bill, it creates millions of dollars a year in ongoing cost pressures not included 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,

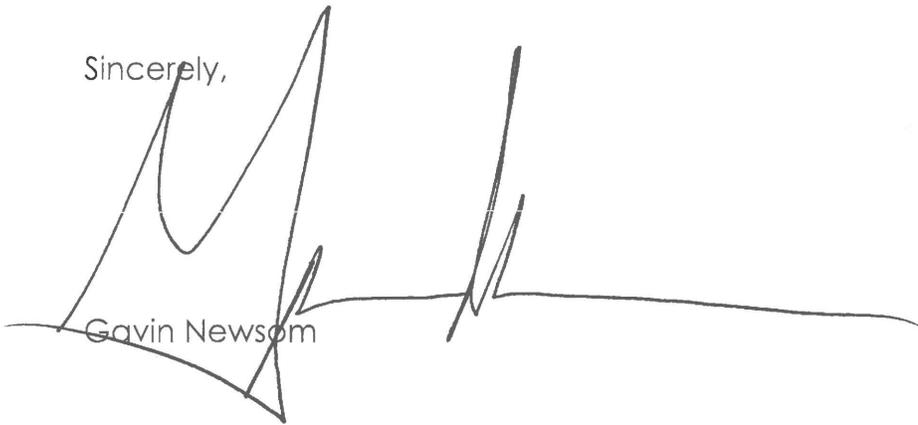


particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.

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 be "Gavin Newsom". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a long horizontal line extending to the right. The name "Gavin Newsom" is printed in a small, black, sans-serif font directly beneath the signature.

Gavin Newsom