



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 25 2022

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2222 without my signature.

This bill would, subject to an appropriation, establish the Golden State Social Opportunities Program administered by the Department of Health Care Access and Information. The purpose of the program is to provide grants to students who commit to work in a California-based nonprofit for two years upon completion of a postgraduate program leading to careers in specified mental health professions.

I share the author's goal of expanding the number of mental health professionals, and the 2022 Budget Act appropriated \$10 million for an identical program, championed by the author. The budget agreement allocated one-time funds for this purpose, but this bill codifies an ongoing commitment not provided for in the budget.

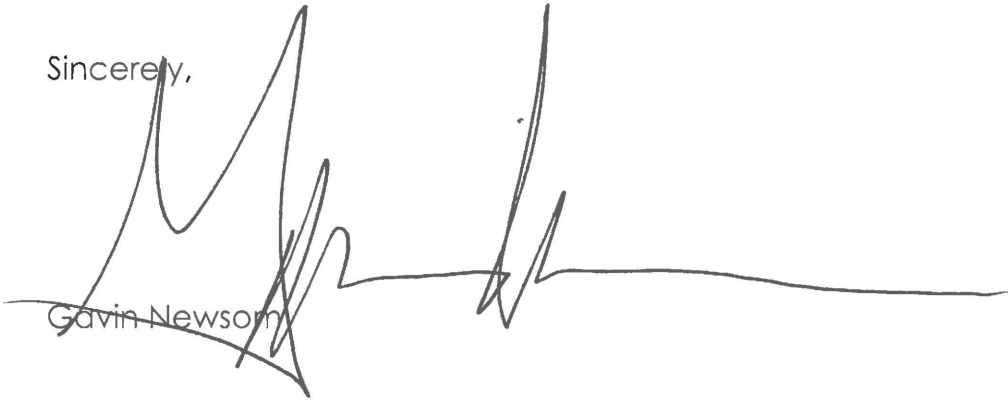
With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.

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 cost pressure,



such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for in the annual budget process. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gavin Newsom