



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**SEP 22 2022**

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2665 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Social Services, on or before July 1, 2023, and upon appropriation by the Legislature, to establish a three-year pilot program for the purpose of addressing racial disparities in the child welfare system in up to five voluntary counties.

I support the author's efforts to address issues of racial disparity in the child welfare system. The proposed pilot project has the potential to inform policymakers as to how California can address disparities in child welfare removal decisions. However, further consideration needs to be given to how this proposal would affect compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act. Furthermore, this bill creates millions of dollars in General Fund cost pressures.

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.

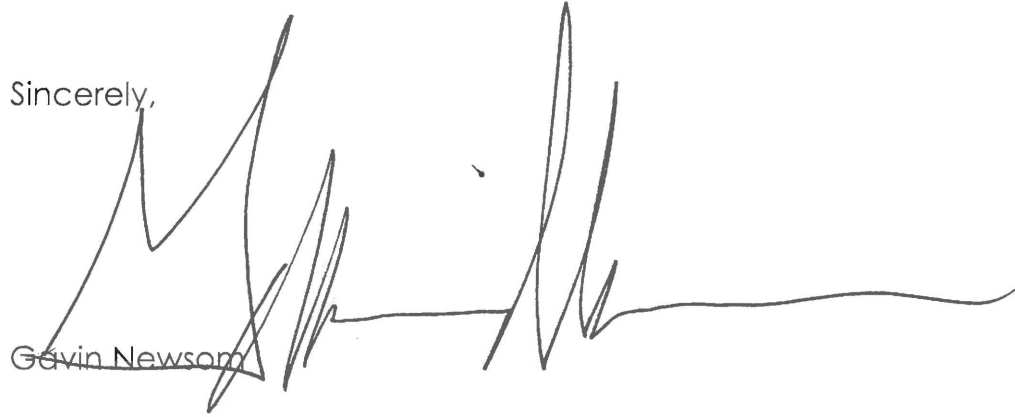
The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills that create a



significant General Fund cost pressure, 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,

Gevin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom". The signature is stylized and overlaps with the printed name "Gavin Newsom" located below it.