



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 29 2022

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2717 without my signature.

AB 2717 enacts the California Healthy Start Act, which expands the community prisoner mother program within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to individuals regardless of their term of imprisonment and prior convictions. This bill also expands visiting at women's prisons and requires CDCR to provide transportation for minor children to visit monthly.

I am supportive of providing as much assistance as possible for incarcerated mothers. CDCR currently operates numerous programs to help mothers, including an enhanced visiting program, a lactation program and the community prisoner mother program. Any expansion of these important programs should be considered 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 initial "G" and "N".

Gavin Newsom