



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 29 2022

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 503 without my signature.

This bill would limit the period of time in which a court may place a ward of the court on probation to six months and extend probation in six month increments upon proof that it is in the best interest of the ward.

I support juvenile justice reform and rehabilitation, which is why, in 2020, I led the effort to realign juvenile justice in California. Realignment is an important reform that has impacted every step of the juvenile justice process, from placement decisions to discharge. County probation has had to work swiftly to adapt to providing care and programming to a new population.

Realignment will not be final until the Division of Juvenile Justice closes in June of next year. As counties prepare for the full implementation of realignment, I am concerned that changes to the juvenile justice system, like those outlined in this legislation, create additional workload for the courts and probation during realignment. I am also concerned about costs driven by the increased number of hearings, the courts estimate that this increased workload will cost millions of dollars.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line.

Gavin Newsom

