To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1066 without my signature.

This bill would, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, require the California Department of Social Services to establish and administer the California Farmworkers Drought Resilience Pilot Project for the purpose of providing guaranteed income to Farmworkers.

I applaud the author’s consideration of how to best ensure farmworkers have access to resources sufficient to provide for basic needs. In the 2021-22 State Budget, California invested $35 million for the California Department of Social Services to create and administer a guaranteed income pilot program over five years. However, this proposal would require millions of dollars more to implement and funds were not included in the budget for this purpose.

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,

Gavin Newsom