



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**SEP 25 2022**

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 70 without my signature. This bill would expand compulsory education to include kindergarten, beginning in the 2024-25 school year.

The learning that happens during the early years of a child's life is critical to their long-term success and happiness. It's why I worked with the Legislature to provide universal access to quality pre-kindergarten education, including transitional kindergarten, the California State Preschool Program, and other state-subsidized early learning programs. Making sure all kids begin their school careers ready to learn on par with their peers is one of the most impactful things we can do to combat societal inequities.

While the author's intent is laudable, SB 70 is estimated to have Prop. 98 General Fund cost impacts of up to \$268 million ongoing, which is not currently accounted for in the state's fiscal plan. 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', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with several sharp peaks and a long horizontal tail.

Gavin Newsom