



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**SEP 27 2022**

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1302 without my signature.

This bill would appropriate \$250 million from the Mental Health Services Fund (MHSF) to provide grants of up to \$250,000 to local educational agencies serving high school pupils to establish or improve school-based health centers that provide mental health services.

My Administration remains committed to addressing the comprehensive needs of the whole child, which is why in working with the Legislature, we have dedicated more than \$8 billion to transforming schools across the state into community schools and implementing the Master Plan for Kids Mental Health. Our youth are best served by programs that are intentionally designed to serve children of all ages and support their comprehensive needs, including mental health.

While the author's intent is commendable, this grant program is duplicative of more comprehensive initiatives already underway. Furthermore, appropriating \$250 million from the MHSF to fund grants for school-based health centers circumvents the Mental Health Services Act's (MHSA) local planning process and inappropriately establishes MHSA-funded grant programs outside of the budget process. Directing MHSA funding to activities which address a specific set of statutorily defined goals, rather than local needs which have been identified by counties and community stakeholders, would be contrary to the intent of the MHSA.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.



Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several sharp, vertical strokes followed by a horizontal line that extends to the right.