



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 07 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1015 without my signature.

This bill would require the State Department of Social Services to administer an expanded Diaper and Wipe Distribution Program in all 58 counties.

The current diaper bank effort was established via the Budget Act of 2021, serving twenty counties throughout California and distributing over one-hundred million diapers to over one million low-income households since its inception. The same budget also exempted diapers from sales tax. While I appreciate the author's desire to provide additional assistance, an expanded effort should similarly be considered and funded as part of the annual budget process.

In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing.

With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.



Sincerely

Gavin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several sharp, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'Gavin Newsom'. The signature is positioned to the right of the printed name and extends horizontally across the page.