



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 07 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1215 without my signature.

This bill, upon appropriation of the Legislature, would establish the Pets Assistance With Support Grant Program, to provide services to pets whose owners are experiencing homelessness or are escaping domestic violence.

I have supported funding for shelters to care for pets belonging to those experiencing homelessness through prior budget investments, including \$10 million appropriated in 2019 and an additional \$1 million in 2022 to fund the Pet Assistance and Support Program (PAS) administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

While I appreciate the author's commitment to programs like these which reduce barriers to accessing shelter, this bill would create an unfunded grant program and should be considered in the annual budget in the context of all state funding priorities.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gavin Newsom