



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1512 without my signature.

This bill would require counties to take additional actions relating to foster youth eligibility for all federal Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits and would prohibit using a child's benefits to pay for any costs of the child's care.

I share the author's commitment to ensure that foster youth receive the benefits and support services they need. However, this bill creates implementation challenges that should be considered as part of the annual budget process. Both Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and foster care benefits are intended to provide for the daily care and supervision of youth, including costs for housing and food. If counties are not permitted to use SSI to cover the cost of providing care to foster youth, the General Fund will need to offset those costs. This was not contemplated as part of the 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 these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom