OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 384 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Education to conduct a research study by January 1, 2026, on recommended indoor air temperature ranges and temperature control standards for public K-12 schools and compile a statewide inventory of heating and cooling systems based on a representative sample. The results of the research study would then be used to develop policy recommendations by January 1, 2027, for safe indoor air temperature standards for public K-12 school facilities.

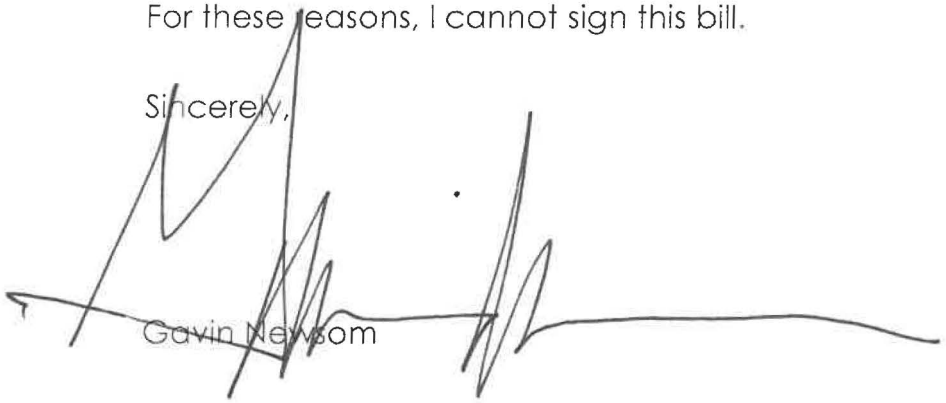
While I appreciate the author's goal of supporting access to indoor temperatures most conducive to student learning, this bill creates significant long-term cost pressures that are not accounted for in the budget.

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