OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 464 without my signature.

This bill, contingent on appropriation, would provide beneficiaries of specified public assistance programs with the opportunity to receive birth certificates, marriage certificates, and marriage dissolution records at no cost. Additionally, this bill, beginning July 1, 2027, requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to provide driver's licenses free of charge to individuals who are homeless.

I appreciate the author's efforts to provide free driver's licenses to homeless individuals and no-cost vital records for beneficiaries of government assistance programs; however, this bill would result in tens of millions of dollars in ongoing costs not contemplated in the budget. Additionally, provisions of this bill are similar to AB 2510, which I vetoed last year due to budget impacts. As stated in that message, I believe there are more efficient ways of assisting this population, and I look forward to working with the Legislature on this important issue.

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