



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 624 without my signature.

This bill, commencing July 1, 2025, requires the California State University Trustees and requests the University of California Regents, to cover the costs of diagnostic assessments for learning disabilities as proof for academic accommodations for any student who receives financial assistance or is eligible for financial assistance from the institution's health or disability center. The bill also specifies that state funds will be provided annually for the cost of these services, and that the Department of General Service shall oversee reimbursements to institutions for their documented costs.

While I support the author's goal of supporting students with learning disabilities, unfortunately, the bill creates at least \$5 million in ongoing General Fund costs that are not reflected in the state's current fiscal plan. Additionally, the Department of General Services may not be the appropriate entity to administer the reimbursement.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Gavin Newsom