OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 881 without my signature.

This bill extends the existing pilot program authorizing the Superior Court of San Francisco to pay low-income trial jurors $100 per day for each day of service as a trial juror in a criminal case and expands it to four additional courts as selected by Judicial Council.

While I appreciate the author's work to create a more equal justice system, this policy needs to be part of budget discussions. 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,

Gavin Newsom