



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 945 without my signature.

This bill would require, beginning May 1, 2026, each court to report to the Judicial Council the rate of expungements granted to individuals who successfully participated as an incarcerated fire camp member or at an institutional firehouse. It would also require the Judicial Council to report the statewide data regarding these petitions. This bill would sunset on January 1, 2036.

While I appreciate the author's dedication to ensuring that these individuals can reenter society and obtain meaningful employment, this bill would cost the state millions of dollars and must be considered in the annual 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.

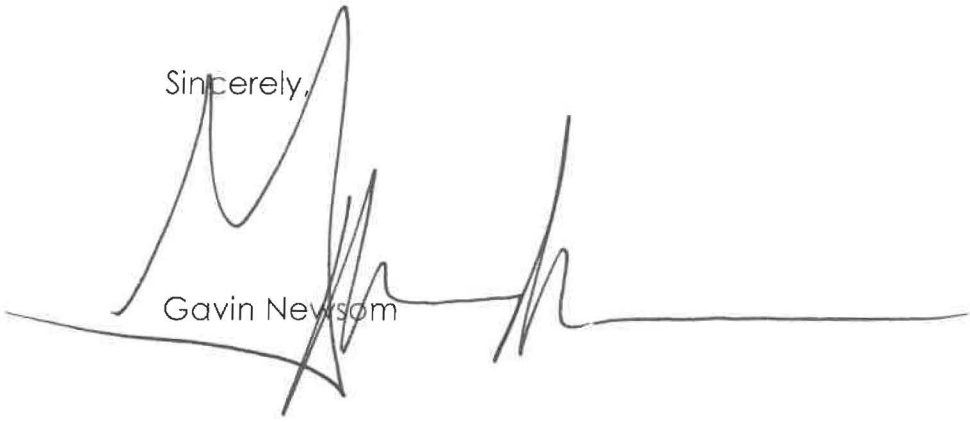
With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.



Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', written over the printed name. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.