



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 354 without my signature.

This bill requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to revise its administrative services credential standards and performance expectations with a focus on inclusive learning environments. It also, subject to separate appropriations, requires the California Department of Education, in consultation with the CTC, to develop and disseminate guidance on the ways in which inclusive classrooms may be staffed, and develop and distribute a report on recommendations for statutory or regulatory changes necessary to eliminate barriers to the staffing of inclusive practices.

Serving students with disabilities in inclusive settings is an essential strategy for improving the academic achievement of these and all students, and one that my Administration, like the author, is committed to advancing. However, this bill is substantially similar to SB 1113 of 2022, which I vetoed, and several of the same concerns remain. In particular, portions of this bill are subject to an appropriation and should be considered as part of 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 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 with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gavin Newsom