



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 435 without my signature.

This bill would require the CalFresh program, within the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to use separate data collection categories for specified Latino groups, Mesoamerican Indigenous nations, and Mesoamerican Indigenous language groups when collecting and reporting demographic data.

Providing more detailed health and demographic information for Latino groups and Mesoamerican Indigenous nations is important to inform our services and supports and to help identify disparities. To this end, my Administration is actively monitoring and reviewing the United States Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) update to federal standards for collection and reporting of race and ethnicity information, and looks forward to engaging stakeholders in this effort. California is required to submit data to the federal government using these federal standards, and programs that receive federal funding must also use these standards. As such, implementing a different framework for data collection in California prior to the release of updated federal standards is premature.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom