



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 541 without my signature.

This bill requires all public high schools to make free condoms available to students and would prohibit retailers from refusing to sell condoms to youth.

While evidence-based strategies, like increasing access to condoms, are important to supporting improved adolescent sexual health, this bill would create an unfunded mandate to public schools that should 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.

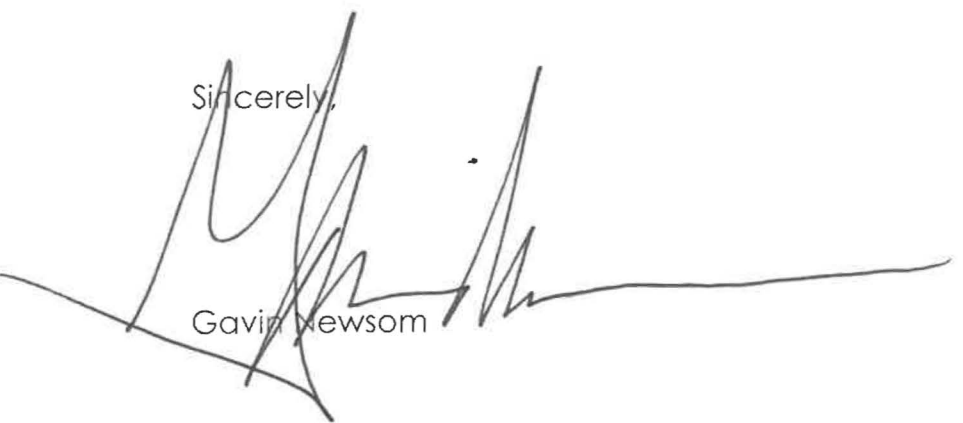
With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure.

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 extends horizontally to the right.