To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 657 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Council) to coordinate with the Department of Aging, Continuums of Care, and Area Agencies on Aging to convene a working group to develop best practices and training for those assisting older adults to prevent and overcome homelessness.

While I agree with the underlying intent of the bill, some of its provisions are duplicative of the Council’s current efforts with member Departments, including the Department of Aging, to establish best practices and provide support for this population. These efforts include the State’s recent partnership with the federal government through the ALL INside Initiative, which includes a specific focus on supporting older adults. In addition, the State has also produced the Master Plan for Aging, a comprehensive 10-year blueprint that outlines how the State will address housing solutions for older adults by 2030, including efforts for enriching services and housing for older Californians. I look forward to working with the author to build on these efforts thoughtfully, but at this time, legislation is not necessary.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom