



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 27 2024

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2104 without my signature.

This bill requires the California Community Colleges (CCC) Chancellor's Office to establish, until January 1, 2031, a Community College Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program for purposes of authorizing 10 community college districts' (CCDs) nursing programs to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

I support the author's intent to expand access to baccalaureate nursing degree programs in underserved communities. The 2024 Budget Agreement included \$60 million per year, from 2025-26 to 2028-29, for the Rebuilding Nursing Infrastructure Grant Program, which may be used to develop or expand Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) partnerships with higher education institutions. These types of partnerships have proven successful in expanding BSN access for community college students and increasing the number of BSN degree recipients. All segments of higher education should continue to focus on building these programs together, and I am concerned this bill could inadvertently undermine that collaboration.

Additionally, in recent years, both the CCC and the CSU have been provided with expanded authority to offer independent programs. Given these major changes, a pause should be taken to understand their full impact before additional authorities are granted.



For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping 'G' and a long, horizontal tail that extends to the right.