



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 28 2024

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2279 without my signature.

This bill would establish the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Justice Program within the Department of Justice to fund and support law enforcement agencies' investigatory activities.

I appreciate the author's commitment to addressing the ongoing MMIP crisis. My administration continues to prioritize policies that increase collaboration between law enforcement and tribal communities to bring justice to those impacted. In partnership with the Legislature, we increased funding in this year's budget for the MMIP Grant Program, which has awarded millions of dollars to support tribes' efforts to identify, publicize, investigate, and solve MMIP cases.

This measure is duplicative of those efforts and creates a new, unfunded grant program not included in the 2024 Budget Act. In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.



For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a long horizontal line extending to the right. The name "Gavin Newsom" is printed in a small, black, sans-serif font directly beneath the signature.

Gavin Newsom