



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 14 2024

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2704 without my signature.

This bill waives the Department of Justice (DOJ) fees for prospective In-Home Supportive Service (IHSS) providers seeking an investigation or criminal background check, and prohibits the DOJ from assessing a fee to a county for the costs of furnishing clinical history information.

I am supportive of efforts to increase the IHSS workforce and reduce barriers to becoming an IHSS provider. However, this bill would require millions annually from the General Fund to cover DOJ costs for conducting background checks.

In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closes a \$46.8 billion deficit in 2024-25 and a projected deficit of \$27.3 billion in 2025-26 through balanced solutions that avoided 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 this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom