



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**SEP 28 2024**

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2736 without my signature.

This bill expands access to the California College Fee Waiver program by eliminating a prohibition that prevents a dependent of a veteran from receiving state benefits while the dependent is entitled to receive specified federal education benefits, or duplicate assistance from any other government source.

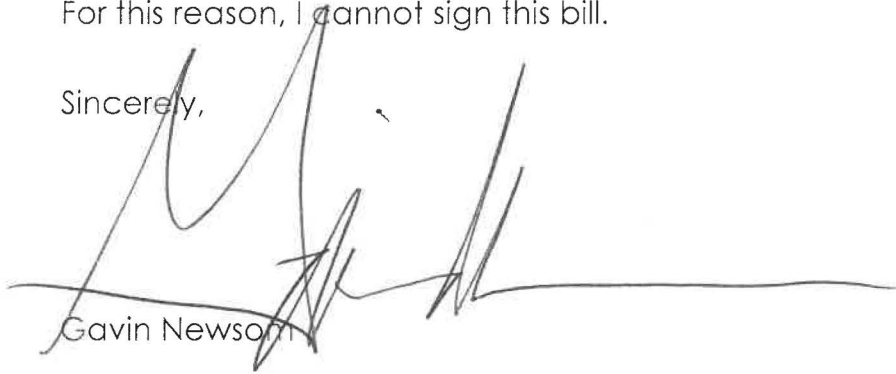
While I support the author's goal of expanding access to higher education for dependents of veterans, this bill would result in General Fund ongoing costs in the millions of dollars annually and should be considered as part of the annual budget process.

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 this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newson', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large 'G' and 'N'.

Gavin Newson