



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 30 2024

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 274 without my signature.

This bill would exempt any grant, award, scholarship, loan, or fellowship benefit received from consideration as income for purposes of determining eligibility for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) and CalFresh.

I appreciate the author's intent to support low-income individuals participating in educational programs. However, this bill does not limit the benefits identified to those used for educational purposes, which is out of compliance with federal laws. Further, this bill would result in ongoing costs in the millions of dollars annually, which should be considered in the 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,

Gavin Newsom

