



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 22 2024

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1419 without my signature.

This bill would create, upon appropriation, the Food Desert Elimination Grant Program to provide grants to large and small-scale grocery store operators in food deserts.

While I support the author's goal to increase access to healthy foods in underserved communities, this bill creates a new, unfunded grant program and should be considered in 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,

Gavin Newsom