



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 28 2024

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 227 without my signature.

This bill would require the Employment Development Department (EDD), on or before March 31, 2025, to develop a detailed plan to establish a permanent Excluded Workers Program, which would provide cash assistance that resembles unemployment benefits for individuals ineligible for the Unemployment Insurance program due to their immigration status.

California has taken important steps to advance inclusion and equity for undocumented workers and mixed-status families who contribute significantly to California's economy and local communities – all while battling fear and uncertainty due to decades of inaction by Congress and cruel and false anti-immigration narratives. Most undocumented workers have lived in the U.S. and contributed for over a decade. Congress must not abandon its responsibility to advance solutions that provide an earned pathway to citizenship for long-standing residents who have contributed significantly and seek the opportunity to work and live without constant fear and uncertainty. We can have a fair immigration system that works for families, U.S. workers, and employers, and also have a safe border. However, this bill sets impractical timelines, has operational issues, and requires funding that was not included in the budget.



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 be "Gavin Newsom", written over the printed name. The signature is stylized and somewhat messy, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gavin Newsom