



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 28 2024

To the members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 85 without my signature.

This bill allows the Department of Social Services (DSS) to allocate state funds for refugee social services programs, and extends the duration of services available for refugees, after they have exhausted their federally funded services, by an additional 90 days.

I appreciate the intent of this bill and thank the Legislature for its commitment to assist refugees with resettlement in this state. California is one of the most welcoming states in the nation and works in partnership to support an array of services to help refugees resettle in California. This includes legal services, management of federal funds, technical assistance with local partners, programs for young refugees, expedited professional licensing, and more. The state also supports people seeking humanitarian protections through an immigration process different from federally managed refugee resettlement.

However, providing extended case management services to refugees beyond the three months of services provided by the federal government would create significant, ongoing cost pressures on the state General Fund.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gavin Newsom", is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized with a large, sharp initial "G" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.