



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**SEP 25 2024**

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 954 without my signature.

This bill, on or before the start of the 2025-26 school year and contingent upon an appropriation, requires public schools to make condoms available for free to all students in grades 9 through 12, place condoms in a minimum of two locations on school grounds, and provide specified sexual health notices, and requires that one employee at each school site be designated to implement the provisions of the bill.

I thank the author and sponsors for their commitment to the health and safety of California's youth. While this bill is contingent on an appropriation, it creates significant ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressures in the millions and these ongoing costs were not accounted for in the 2024 Budget Act. I vetoed a similar bill last year, conveying that the bill created an unfunded mandate that should be considered as part of the annual budget process. While the author successfully championed \$5 million for a similarly aligned purpose in this year's budget, one-time funding does not adequately address the fiscal concerns associated with this bill.

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 Newsom', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible due to the cursive nature of the writing.

Gavin Newsom