



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 28 2024

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 971 without my signature.

This bill allows Glendale Community College District and the Contra Costa Community College District to exempt up to 75 full-time equivalent, low-income students from nonresident tuition fees who are residents of a region impacted by war or regional conflict.

I appreciate the author's commitment to college affordability for individuals living in his district. However, this bill creates both Proposition 98 General Fund and non-Proposition 98 General Fund costs that were not accounted for in the 2024 Budget Act and could generate potentially significant future cost pressures. Notably, individuals impacted by war or conflict may already qualify for one or more of the existing exemption categories.

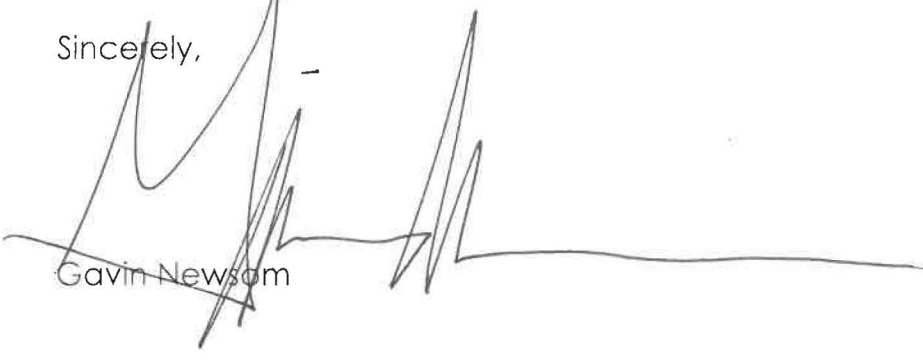
In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is 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,

Gavin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'G' followed by a series of sharp, angular strokes that form the name 'Newsom'. The signature is written over the printed name 'Gavin Newsom'.