



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 06 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1378 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to enter into agreements with tribes, at their request, to prevent entries into foster care, specifying that such agreements would be made solely for the purpose of administering prevention services funded by the federal Family First Prevention Services Act. The bill would also require CDSS to provide funding to tribes to support the cost of legal representation for a child and their parent in foster care proceedings.

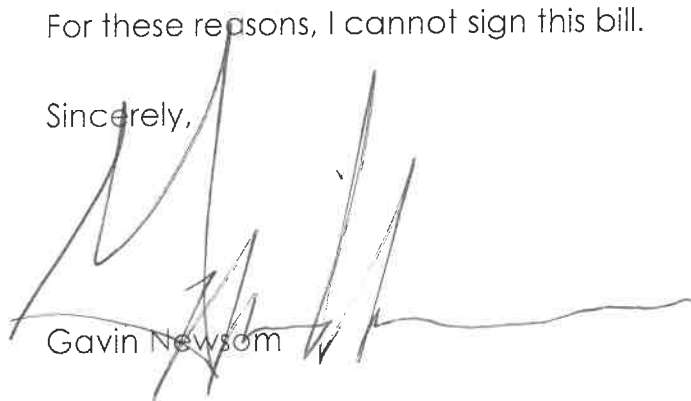
I recognize the long-standing disparities faced by tribal children and their families, especially by governmental entities, and sincerely appreciate the author's intent to provide prevention services to at-risk tribal families. However, the specific approach proposed by this bill contains significant fiscal, legal, and programmatic issues. It is unclear whether the types of agreements proposed by this bill can be used to access federal funds. Requiring CDSS to enter into such agreements would create significant uncertainties about how these agreements could be implemented and how funding would be provided.

Acknowledging the volatility of the current political and fiscal landscapes, my Administration proposed an alternative approach, consistent with the intent of this bill, that could have substantially benefited some of the most vulnerable

tribal children and families. Unfortunately, this alternative was not accepted, leaving this bill deeply flawed.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large 'G' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gavin Newsom