



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**OCT 13 2025**

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 7 without my signature.

This bill clarifies, to the extent permitted by federal law, that California public and private postsecondary educational institutions may consider providing a preference in admissions to an applicant who is a descendant of slavery.

I thank the author for his deep commitment to addressing disparities in education stemming from the legacy of slavery. These institutions already have the authority to determine whether to provide admissions preferences like this one, and accordingly, this bill is unnecessary. I encourage the institutions referenced in this bill to review and determine how, when, and if this type of preference can be adopted.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom