



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 30 2026

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 577, which revises numerous provisions of law related to claims against public entities, including those for childhood sexual assault, modifies local government training and recordkeeping statutes, and modifies the procedures for local agencies that issue public debt obligations. This measure attempts to thread the needle of protecting and compensating children from vile and inhumane treatment, while simultaneously ensuring our most important public institutions do not crumble under the threat of oppressive, and in some cases outright fraudulent claims of abuse.

Earlier this year, Los Angeles County entered into a \$4 billion settlement agreement in order to resolve thousands of allegations of sexual abuse and avoid additional expense from having to litigate each individual claim. At the same time, the District Attorney announced an expansive criminal investigation into those same claims, suspecting that as many as 80% could be fraudulent.

This measure represents an important and necessary first step toward reform that simultaneously addresses the wrongs of the past while providing public institutions relief from certain plaintiffs and attorneys who may engage in unscrupulous conduct to exploit existing law and deprive actual victims of just compensation, but I implore the Legislature to continue to make changes to further address this untenable situation.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

