



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 30 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1537 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit peace officers from engaging in any form of secondary employment that involves enforcing immigration laws and would require that certain documents pertaining to secondary employment be subject to the California Public Records Act (PRA).

This measure recognizes the disturbing role of those who participate in the indiscriminate raids that have rounded up American citizens, people with legal status, hardworking parents, and their children. The horrific tactics deployed by the Trump administration to instill fear and panic in our most vulnerable communities are a stain on our nation, and Congress must act to hold the Trump administration and culpable agents accountable, while also advancing reforms to ensure fair, humane, and lawful immigration enforcement that is transparent and accountable to the public.

However, establishing a default prohibition regarding the secondary employment law enforcement officers choose to do in their free time is a step too far. State and local peace officers already must abide by specific standards and rules, including ones that apply to their personal conduct. Any officers who

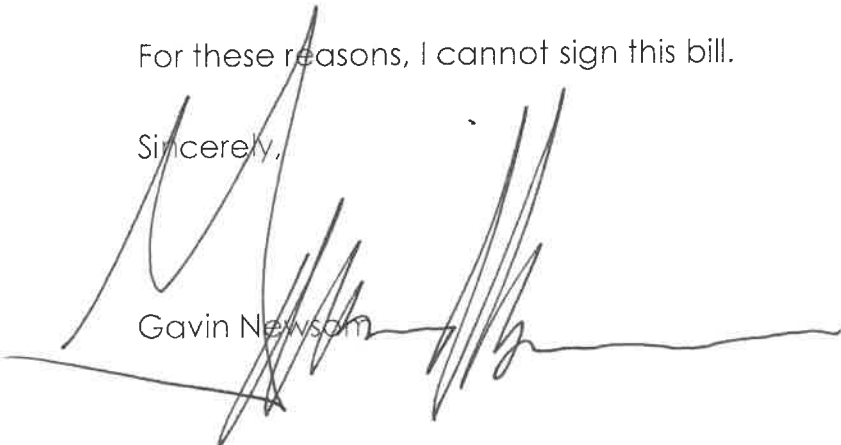


violate those standards are held accountable through investigations that may culminate in their peace officer status being suspended or revoked entirely.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Gavin Newsom", is written over the printed name. The signature is composed of several sharp, sweeping strokes, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.