



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 27 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2502 without my signature.

This bill would define "drive" for purposes of certain driving under the influence, reckless driving, and vehicular manslaughter offenses when a vehicle is operating with specified driver-support technology.

I share the author's goal of ensuring that drivers cannot avoid responsibility for impaired driving by engaging partially automated technology. Unfortunately, this bill as drafted introduces significant uncertainties into DUI law, which could have the unintended consequence of making it more difficult to hold dangerous drivers accountable. By using undefined terms that are not in alignment with established standards, such as "driver support features," this bill could leave officers, prosecutors, and courts to resolve complex questions about a vehicle's software and capabilities before determining whether an impaired individual was legally driving.

Further, the incident cited as the impetus for this bill resulted in the driver being arrested, prosecuted, and convicted of DUI, demonstrating that existing law can already hold impaired drivers accountable when these systems are engaged. I encourage the Legislature to revisit this important issue next year, and instead focus on a comprehensive framework that consistently addresses responsibility

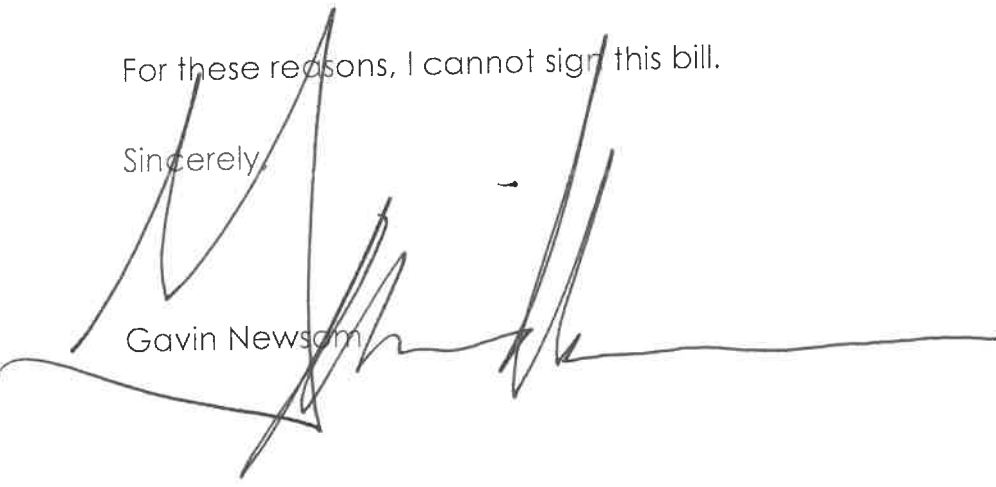


across vehicle technologies and traffic offenses, while preserving effective enforcement of the state's impaired-driving laws.

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 and extends across the page.