



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 27 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2526 without my signature.

This bill expands eligibility for the state's low-incidence disability special education funding program by adding pupils who take California's alternate assessments as determined by their Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) team.

In this year's state budget, together with the Legislature, we made historic investments in special education, increasing funding by 43% — a \$2.4 billion ongoing increase overall — and including a \$40 million increase in low-incidence disabilities funding. I am incredibly proud of this work, and appreciate the author's intent to further support our students with extensive support needs.

Unfortunately, this bill takes the wrong approach by expanding eligibility based on a determination by an IEP team — an imprecise measure of the cost and intensity of a student's education needs. This could create inappropriate fiscal incentives and have the unintended consequence of diluting funding for currently eligible students.

Further efforts to address the cost of serving students with extensive support needs must build on the investments made in the state budget, preserve

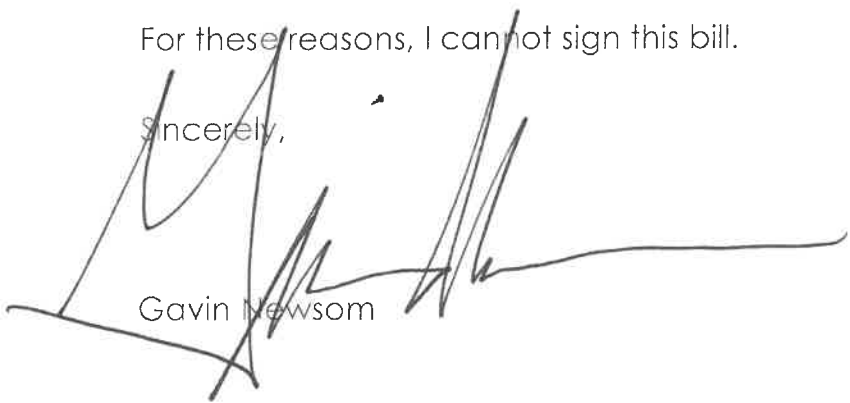


dedicated support for students with low-incidence disabilities, and use a funding mechanism more directly aligned with demonstrated service needs and costs.

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.