



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 30 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 264 without my signature.

This bill expands access to the California College Fee Waiver program by repealing existing law that prohibits dependents of veterans from receiving state benefits while the dependent is entitled to specified federal education benefits or duplicate assistance from any other government source.

While I support the author's goal of expanding access to higher education for dependents of veterans, this bill would result in General Fund ongoing costs in the millions of dollars annually and should be considered as part of the annual budget process.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom