



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 27 2026

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1194 without my signature.

This bill establishes the Immigration Legal Fellowship Project (ILFP) within the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

I share the author's commitment to ensure California maintains the capacity to provide legal representation for vulnerable immigrant communities as arrests and detentions rise. To that end, this year's budget doubled the state funding provided to immigration-related legal services – allocating nearly \$150 million dollars dedicated to this important work – and included \$7.5 million for ILFP, the very project envisioned by this bill. This allocation also includes the flexibility to fund additional fellows to meet regional needs and provides \$34.3 million in direct allocations to nonprofit organizations that provide immigration services. As such, this bill, which creates an unfunded program on top of this work, is duplicative and unnecessary.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

