



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 30 2026

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 938 without my signature.

This bill would provide that service as a sworn federal law enforcement officer whose primary duties consisted of enforcing of immigration laws, and the training for that service, does not qualify for a Regular Basic Course Waiver for peace officer training.

This measure appears responsive to the disturbing role of those who participate in the indiscriminate immigration raids that have rounded up American citizens, people with legal status, hardworking parents, and their children. Many horrific tactics deployed by the Trump administration coincided with a hiring surge and reduced training requirements that added 12,000 ICE officers and agents, more than doubling the size of the agency in just four months, and a rush to deploy these officers in major cities across the country.

Nonetheless, establishing a default prohibition on obtaining a basic training waiver for individuals enforcing immigration laws is a step too far. California peace officers are held to high standards, including personal conduct, and any officers who violate those standards will be held accountable. Officers who do not meet California's rigorous standards and training, including those added to ICE in the hiring surge with truncated training, are already unlikely to qualify for a waiver of the 680-hour basic training regimen.

In addition, immigration enforcement includes duties beyond interior enforcement actions in major U.S. cities, such as patrolling the Southern border, customs inspections at all ports of entry, and complex human trafficking investigations. Each of these roles may be primarily immigration enforcement,



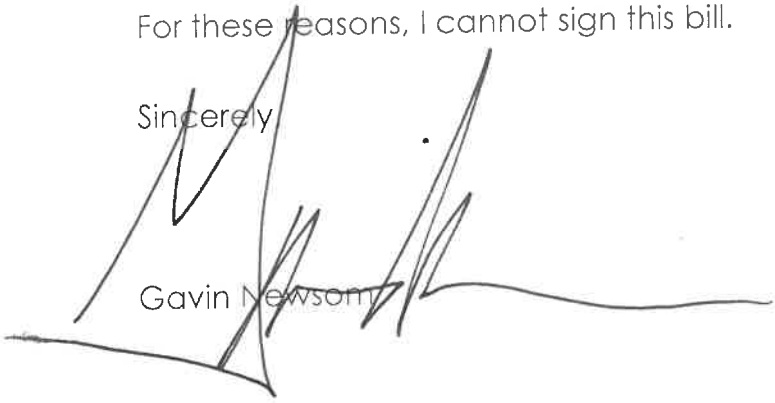
but treating each of them as ineligible for a basic training waiver may discourage empathetic, highly trained Americans, who otherwise meet our comprehensive standards and training requirements, from becoming California peace officers.

Earlier this year, I signed AB 1627 (Avila-Farias), which provides that immigration enforcement officers who engaged in serious misconduct during their tenure are disqualified from obtaining peace officer status. It is appropriate to focus on the behaviors of individual officers, rather than categorically eliminating an entire group from basic training waiver eligibility.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.