



SEP 18 2026

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1889 without my signature.

This measure would authorize a court to issue a protective order, at the time of sentencing, preventing a defendant from contacting a victim in specified cases for up to one year after the defendant is released from state prison or county jail.

While well-intentioned, it is unclear whether this bill can be implemented effectively. Many factors can trigger recalculations of an incarcerated person's release date, including changes in workgroup assignments, program credit earnings, credit losses or restorations, and modifications to sentencing terms or case credits. Any one of these factors could change when an incarcerated person is released, but they are unknowable at the time of sentencing, when the court issues the protective order. This will result in inaccurate or incomplete information being entered into the electronic systems that law enforcement rely on to determine whether a particular individual is subject to such an order. Tying a protective order to the date of release requires information that will simply not be available to the court, creating confusion on the part of officers and victims alike. While I support the author's attempt to ensure victims are adequately protected, additional work is needed to allow for proper implementation of this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom