



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 18 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2301 without my signature.

This bill requires the California Community College (CCC) Chancellor's Office to establish a Community College Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program that would authorize 10 community college districts to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree.

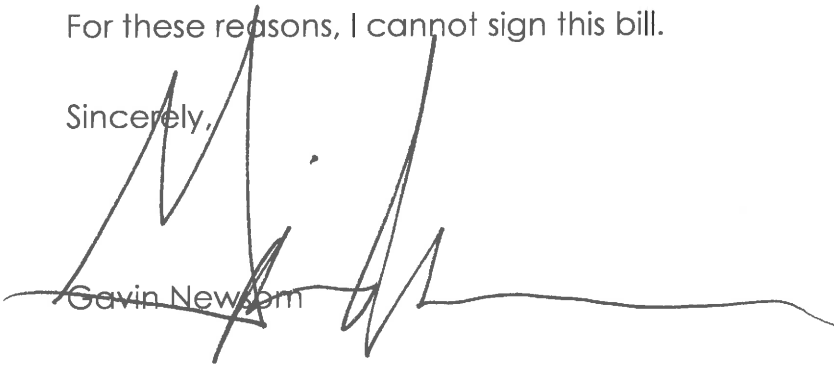
This year, I proudly signed SB 960 and AB 2694 to create a statewide framework for community college districts to establish baccalaureate programs already offered by other public higher education institutions. This framework is inclusive of all academic programs, so long as specified criteria are met — such as a demonstrated workforce demand and lack of capacity in regional universities. Given this progress, it is neither necessary nor appropriate to authorize an additional pilot or create an exception to the framework, as this bill proposes. California's public higher education segments should instead focus on implementing this newly created, comprehensive system.

Additionally, the 2024 Budget Agreement included \$60 million per year, from 2025-26 to 2028-29, for the Rebuilding Nursing Infrastructure Grant Program, which community colleges can use to expand BSN partnerships with the University of California, California State University, and independent nonprofit higher education institutions. These partnerships have proven successful in increasing BSN degree recipients and access for community college students.

All segments of higher education should continue collaborating to build these programs.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newborn