



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 18 2026

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning SB 1077 without my signature.

This bill would impose a number of requirements on the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to respond to future federal government shutdowns that impact the disbursement of CalFresh benefits. This would include creating a webpage about the status of CalFresh benefits during a shutdown, developing a communications plan, and establishing a benefit issuance mechanism that would allow CDSS to issue nutrition benefits during a shutdown if CalFresh disbursements are impacted.

Last fall, America endured the longest federal government shutdown in the nation's history and — for the first time in the program's six-decade existence — federal food assistance benefits were not issued, despite the availability of \$5 billion in federal contingency funds. In response to this cruelty, California took several actions to mitigate the harm to millions relying on food assistance. Under "Operation Feed California," we deployed California Service Corps members and the National Guard to food banks, fast-tracked roughly \$80 million in emergency state funding, and called on residents to volunteer, donate, and support neighbors — California stepped up where Washington had failed.

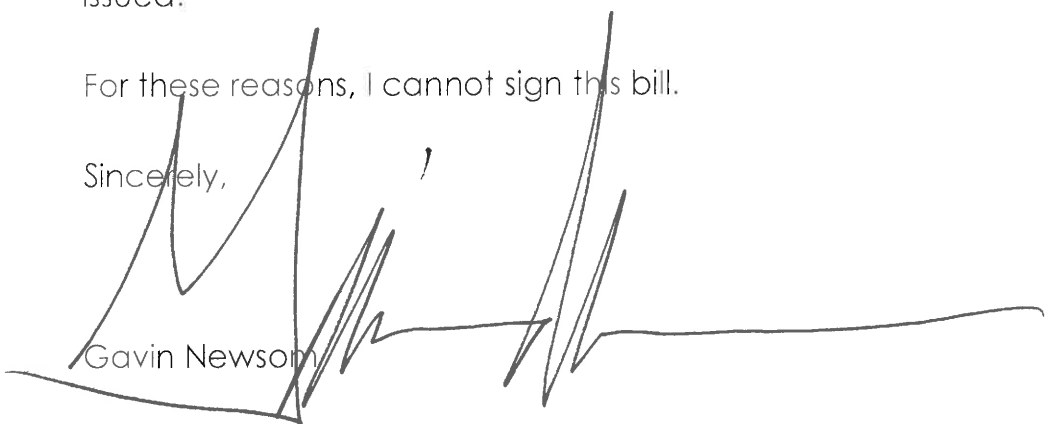
I wholeheartedly share the author's goal of ensuring families maintain access to critical food benefits in the event of a future federal government shutdown. However, this bill imposes requirements that CDSS simply cannot implement, while also limiting the state's flexibility to stay nimble in response to rapidly changing circumstances. Much of the information CDSS would be required to disseminate was not available during the 43-day shutdown last fall, and would likely not be available in future ones. Further, the creation of a new state-funded

benefit issuance mechanism would require significant automation planning and system development, the complexity of which depends on the type of benefit issued.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several sharp, overlapping strokes, is written over the printed name 'Gavin Newsom' and extends across the middle of the page.