



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 20 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1602 without my signature.

This bill establishes a statewide Child Welfare Disaster Response Fund and a Child Welfare Disaster Response Program to support foster children and youth and their caregivers during a disaster.

While I share the author's goal to support foster children and youth and their caregivers, this bill would create a new, unfunded grant program. Last year I vetoed an identical bill, noting that without an identified funding source, it would have created significant, ongoing General Fund cost pressures to fund local assistance costs annually. That is still the case.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

