



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 20 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 713 without my signature.

This bill prohibits California public universities, beginning January 6, 2027, from disqualifying a student from employment for failing to provide proof of federal employment authorization.

Two years ago, I vetoed a nearly identical bill and, unfortunately, my concerns about its unintended consequences have only grown. The current federal government has shown it is quick to wreak destruction for political spectacle — attacking California's public higher education institutions and terrorizing immigrant communities, including students, with reckless disregard for consequences and a desire for chaos.

California remains committed to economic opportunity and tuition affordability for all students, including leading efforts to support undocumented students who face growing barriers and threats under this cruel federal administration. But given the gravity of this bill's consequences — including potential criminal and civil liability for state employees — the federal courts must resolve the legality of the novel legal theory behind this legislation before we proceed. Seeking declaratory relief in federal court would provide such clarity.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely

Gavin Newsom