



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 28 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1845 without my signature.

This bill would establish the Office to End Homelessness within the Office of the Governor and realign several of the state's ongoing efforts related to homelessness.

I sincerely appreciate the author's leadership on this issue and the intent of this bill, but I do not support this particular vision of organizational restructuring at this time.

Homelessness has been and remains one of my top priorities, commanding the dedicated attention of a Senior Counselor on Homelessness and Housing in the Governor's office and the dedication of senior members of my Administration including multiple Agency Secretaries. Since taking office in January 2019, we have invested over \$2 billion in new, direct aid for homelessness. I am also proud of our work to implement Project Roomkey and Homekey, which help to protect homeless Californians from COVID-19 during this pandemic.

These initiatives and investments demonstrate our commitment to prioritizing this vulnerable population, no matter what other challenges we confront. And they serve as a proof point of the interagency coordination we have led to develop and implement them successfully.

Homelessness must not be considered in a vacuum.

Our Administration has taken a demonstrably integrated approach to preventing and ending homelessness by empowering leaders in the health care and housing space to work together on coordinated solutions.



Separating policy development on homelessness from that on health care or housing will lead to more fragmentation, not less. Looking at homeless spending through a separate lens, divorced from our health care and housing budgets, will lead to more duplication and inefficiency.

There are certainly ways in which we can improve upon state government's collective work in this area. However, I am not convinced that the approach outlined in this bill is the best path forward.

I am committed to partnering with the author and the Legislature next year to continue making progress on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom