

# California State Senate

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September 18, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Recommended Veto of SB 518 (Wieckowski)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully write to request your veto of Senate Bill 518 (Wieckowski), which provides that litigation to enforce the California Public Records Act (CPRA) is exempt from the application of Civil Code Section 998.

This bill is problematic because it eliminates a common litigation practice that encourages plaintiffs to settle their case, rather than litigate it all the way. Section 998 helps avoid costly and time consuming litigation by making it more costly to refuse good faith offers to settle a dispute. Removing claims brought under the CPRA from the application of this law will likely lead to an increase of litigation brought under this act, which will hurt the public and potentially reward serial litigants who are suing for technical, non-substantive violations of the act.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Grove". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray rectangular background.

Shannon Grove  
Senate Republican Leader