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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 AB 624 (Gabriel)

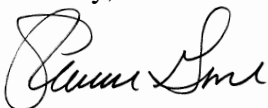
Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully write to request your veto of Assembly Bill 624, which requires public and private schools that serve pupils in grades 7 to 12 to include on the pupils' ID card the number for the National Sexual Assault Hotline; requires public schools to also include the telephone number for "a local resource that provides sexual and reproductive health care information;" and imposes similar requirements on public and private colleges.

This bill would require private institutions to communicate a message that may be contrary to a school or a student's deepest convictions. The First Amendment does not permit the State to sacrifice speech for efficiency. The burden of proof is on the State to prove that the law is narrowly tailored to achieve a compelling government interest. This bill does to meet that test. Moreover, additional information would crowd-out the importance of, and likely diminish the effectiveness of, the suicide prevention hotline numbers that were added to student IDs just last year. Nothing should detract from this effort to reduce adolescent suicide.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto.

Sincerely,



Shannon Grove
Senate Republican Leader