

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 607 without my signature.

This bill would permanently eliminate the authority to suspend or recommend for expulsion a student in grades 4-5 who willfully disrupts school activities or defies the valid authority of school officials, and prohibits -- until July 1, 2023 -- the suspension of a student in grades 6-8 for that same misconduct. These prohibitions would apply to charter schools.

Teachers and principals are on the front lines educating our children and are in the best position to make decisions about order and discipline in the classroom. That's why I vetoed a similar bill in 2012. In addition, I just approved \$15 million in the 2018 Budget Act to help local schools improve their disciplinary practices. Let's give educators a chance to invest that money wisely before issuing any further directives from the state.

Sincerely,

Edmund G. Brown Jr.