

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1876 without my signature.

As a major proponent of After School Education and Safety programs in California, I am thrilled that the voter approved Proposition 49 made funding available that has made it possible for so many schools across the state to have programs serving students from 3 o'clock to 6 o'clock, from Monday through Friday. Currently, over 3,800 after school programs serve an average of approximately 333,700 students a day. These programs have time and time again met their intended purpose of keeping children safe, inspiring student learning, and helping working families.

It is a great testament to all the hard working after school program providers that California can be such a leader in providing educationally enriching activities to its students even after the end of the regular school day. The need is so great for these valuable after school programs that there is still not enough funding to meet the long waiting list of schools and students seeking to have an after school program.

As a result, with so many program applications pending on the waiting list to start offering services during the regular school week, I do not believe it is prudent to expand to weekend hours at this time.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger