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California State Senate

SENATOR
KELLY SEYARTO
THIRTY-SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



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HOUSING
TRANSPORTATION

September 21, 2023

Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Veto Request – Assembly Bill 957

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing today to respectfully request that you veto Assembly Bill 957.

This bill, if implemented, would require a court in a child custody proceeding to consider a parent's affirmation of a child's gender identity as part of its consideration of what constitutes the health, safety, and welfare of the child.

Unfortunately, this bill elevates the affirmation of what is oftentimes a fluid gender identity to the same level of primary consideration as the safety and well-being of the child, as well as any history of substance abuse. What is oftentimes a temporary and casual declaration by the child, in this case becomes the primary basis of a long-term decision with significant implications on the child's future development and parental involvement.

This bill also incentivizes the disingenuous demonization of another parent's personal or religious beliefs. I cannot imagine telling a parent they must abandon their religious values if they want to maintain the right to see and spend time with their child. We need to work together to foster greater cooperation around the objective well-being and needs of children instead of driving families apart over rapidly evolving social values.

I respectfully request that you veto AB-957, and I thank you for your time to read this letter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (916) 651-4032.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Seyarto".

Kelly Seyarto
Senate, 32nd District