



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 9 2015

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 376 without my signature.

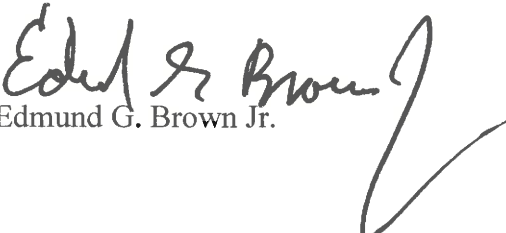
Senate Bill 376 seeks to bring wage and benefit parity to the University of California's contracted workers in specific job categories, such as custodial, clerical and food services, and other services associated with the University's medical enterprises. The bill touches several issues – from contracting out service industry work that could be performed by employees, to the pay and working conditions of contracted workers, to the need for more vigorous oversight of contract employers.

Without a doubt, these are all serious matters to consider, and they reflect the difficulty in balancing things we commonly value, such as increasing the wages of low-income workers and keeping operational costs down. It's worth noting that the University of California recently responded to criticisms of its wage and contracting practices with a plan to incrementally increase its minimum wage for both employees and contract workers, and a pledge to better oversee contracts generally.

The effort to provide increased compensation to those who work for UC – either directly or on a contract basis – is well-intentioned, but I'm not prepared to embrace the provisions of this bill.

I would caution the University, however, to provide a transparent accounting of its contracts and clearly demonstrate how the interests of all its lower paid workers are being protected.

Sincerely,

  
Edmund G. Brown Jr.