



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 06 2011

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 888 without my signature.

This measure seeks to address the offensive conduct of those who protest at private funerals to gain publicity for their causes, and I am very tempted to sign it. When I was the Attorney General, I joined an amicus brief in the Supreme Court arguing that funeral protesters should be held accountable to their victims. But earlier this year, the Supreme Court ruled that funeral protests are protected by the First Amendment and can be circumscribed in only extremely limited ways.

I cannot in good faith sign this measure because it plainly fails to comport with the Supreme Court's decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edmund G. Brown Jr." with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Edmund G. Brown Jr.