



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 15 2017

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 233 without my signature.

This bill provides that a student has the right to wear specific adornments at school graduation ceremonies.

Students in California have a well-established right to express their views through symbolic acts under the state Education Code and the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment. See *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School Dist.* (1969) 393 U.S. 503, 506. Under these precedents, student expression is clearly protected.

To the extent that there is a dispute about what a student can wear at school graduation ceremonies, I believe those closest to the problem -- principals and democratically elected school boards -- are in the best position to make wise judgments.

Sincerely,

  
Edmund G. Brown Jr.