



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 30 2023

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am pleased to sign SB 553 aimed at increasing worker safety in workplaces across the state. Over the past months, my office has worked with the author, sponsors, and business leaders to ensure this bill did not prevent businesses from responding to retail theft and violence, but instead empowers their employees with the tools and knowledge necessary to be prepared.

Over the past years, we have taken unprecedented action to tackle retail theft and workplace violence through our Real Public Safety Plan and historic \$800 million in funding to support multiple programs improving public safety and cracking down on retail crime.

Senate Bill 553 builds upon these efforts by protecting our workforce, and requires employers to establish, implement and maintain an effective workplace violence prevention plan, among other provisions. Employers are already required to take steps to protect workers from workplace hazards, and this bill strengthens those protections by providing specific guidelines for what employers must do to protect workers from acts or threats of violence at work.

This important policy will ensure there is a plan in place at workplaces across our state, in order to help protect California workers from workplace violence. Everyone deserves to be and feel safe everywhere they are, especially at work.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

