



## Fiscal Protector

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### Why doesn't California Governor Gavin Newsom care about kids?

What is it with this “conservative”?

Last week, Newsom coldly deployed his veto pen to deny to Golden State public high school students the sex subsidies — in this case, free condoms — that a solid majority of their state legislators had determined were essential to their healthy development.

Senate Bill 541 would have mandated that all public schools make condoms available free to all students, grades nine through twelve. According to an *Associated Press* [report](#), the legislation would also “have made it illegal for retailers to refuse to sell condoms to youth.”

The bill's author, State Sen. Caroline Menjivar, a Los

Angeles Democrat, contends the legislation is needed to help “youth who decide to become sexually active to protect themselves and their partners from (sexually transmitted infections), while also removing barriers that potentially shame them and lead to unsafe sex.”

Newsom agreed that free condoms, even if not yet recognized as a fundamental human right, are “important to supporting improved adolescent sexual health.”

His problem? Condoms cost too much.

“With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty,” explained the governor, “it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications.”

Seems California is already running a \$30 billion deficit. Becoming the condom supplier of first resort for 1.9 million hormone-infused students each year would annually add a few million more to that deficit.

Ah, California . . . where Gavin Newsom is the voice of fiscal restraint.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.