



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 30 2016

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

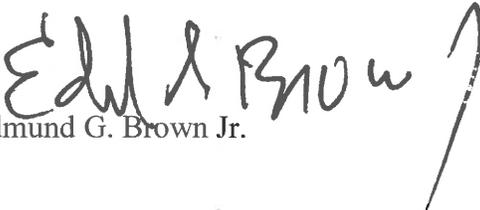
I am returning Assembly Bill 2086 without my signature.

This bill requires the Division of Worker's Compensation to appoint qualified clinical neuropsychologists as Qualified Medical Examiners (QMEs).

I have the same concerns with this bill as with its predecessor, AB 1542, which I vetoed last year. The changes contemplated by this bill relate to legal evaluations, not medical treatment of injured workers as suggested by the declaratory text of the measure. If enacted, the bill would create a unique lower standard for a select group of providers with a direct financial interest in being appointed as QMEs in California's workers' compensation system.

In addition to increasing benefits and stabilizing costs, the 2013 workers' compensation reforms were intended to return medical treatment decisions to doctors and reduce the excessive litigation relating to medical treatment disputes. Treatment of injuries by neuropsychologists where medically appropriate as determined by injured workers' physicians will be unchanged by a signature or veto of this measure. However, a signature would be a step backwards in the ongoing efforts to reduce unnecessary costs that do not benefit injured workers.

Sincerely,


Edmund G. Brown Jr.