



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 27 2012

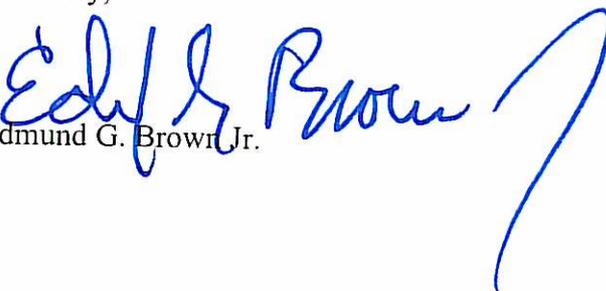
To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 217 without my signature.

This bill seeks to eliminate one of several statutory exceptions to the general prohibition on indoor smoking in the workplace. Specifically, AB 217 would ban all indoor smoking, and also restrict outdoor smoking, at nursing homes and similar facilities.

While health and safety considerations must prevail, to the extent a resident's preferences can be accommodated, they should. Allowing an elderly resident, who can't go home and who has smoked for a lifetime, to smoke in a designated indoor area during inclement weather – this sounds reasonable to me. Let's rely on the locals, in this case the facility and its residents and employees, to figure out which accommodations work or don't work.

Sincerely,

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

Edmund G. Brown Jr.