



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 09 2011

To the Members of the California State Senate:

While I wholeheartedly support everyone's right to information about their own health, the notice in this bill gave me pause. I talked to many people, including doctors I respect, about the effects of the notice -- both its risks and benefits -- and struggled over the words. Were they a path to greater knowledge or unnecessary anxiety?

My conclusion was this: every patient needs health information they can use. For women, that likely includes information about breast density. But the notice contained in this bill goes beyond information about breast density. It advises that additional screening may be beneficial. If the state must mandate a notice about breast density -- and I am not certain it should -- such a notice must be more carefully crafted, with words that educate more than they prescribe.

I am returning Senate Bill 791 without my signature.

Sincerely,

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

Edmund G. Brown Jr.