



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 18 2019

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 166 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services to establish a hospital-based or hospital-linked violence prevention pilot program in at least nine designated counties by January 1, 2021. Medi-Cal would cover violence preventative services rendered by violence prevention professionals under the pilot program.

The 2019 Budget Act provided \$30 million in the General Fund for the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Program, the largest investment in the program's history. I also signed AB 1603 (Wicks) which codifies the CalVIP program in statute and increases the grant amount that can be distributed. Hospital-based violence intervention programs are eligible for grant funding through CalVIP.

While I appreciate the Legislature's intent to secure additional funding for these programs, these changes should be considered in the annual budget process where we can have a comprehensive conversation about spending priorities for the Medi-Cal program.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom