



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**OCT 12 2019**

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 506 without my signature.

This bill revises the criteria used by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to impose class "AA" violations in long-term care facilities.

Patient safety and quality care is of the utmost importance, and I am committed to protecting the vulnerable residents of long-term health care facilities. This bill began as a laudable effort to update the standard for determining a facility's responsibility for the death of a patient or resident. However, I am concerned that the language, in its current form, would create more confusion than clarity and would not help CDPH to enforce the law.

I encourage the Legislature and stakeholders to work with CDPH toward a resolution that enables the Department to better hold facilities accountable for causing the death of a patient or resident.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom