



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 09 2019

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 803 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to establish a Peer Support Labor Management Committee tasked with crafting and updating a standardized statewide policy for CDCR's peer-support program.

I strongly support efforts to improve existing peer-support and employee wellness programs for all CDCR employees. However, I am concerned that the committee process envisioned by this bill will duplicate existing programmatic efforts already in place, as well as create additional bureaucratic obstacles to implementation of a consistent and successful program for all employees, not only peace officers.

I am signing Assembly Bill 1117, which creates standards for peer-counselor programs for local law enforcement entities. This provides a model for ongoing conversations about this issue. I am directing CDCR to work with the Legislature and proponents of this bill to come to agreement on similar legislation that provides a meaningful voice for affected employees, and is also workable for the Department, as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom