



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 13 2019

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 10 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to establish a new state certification program for mental health and substance use disorder peer support specialists.

Peer support services can play an important role in meeting individuals' behavioral health care needs by pairing those individuals with trained "peers" who offer assistance with navigating local community behavioral health systems and provide needed support. Currently, counties may opt to use peer support services for the delivery of Medicaid specialty mental health services.

As the Administration, in partnership with the Legislature and counties, works to transform the state's behavioral health care delivery system, we have an opportunity to more comprehensively include peer support services in these transformation plans. I look forward to working with you on these transformations efforts in the budget process and future legislation, as improving the state of the state's behavioral health system is a critical priority for me.

This proposal comes with significant costs that should be considered in the budget process.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom