



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 12 2019

To Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 305 without my signature.

This bill would require a health care facility to allow a terminally ill patient to use medical cannabis within the health care facility. Patients who are hospitalized and facing the end of their days should be provided with relief, compassion, and dignity.

California voters passed the Compassionate Use Act over two decades ago to allow for the medical use of cannabis. Since then, 32 more states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands have enacted similar laws. It is inconceivable that the federal government continues to regard cannabis as having no medicinal value. The federal government's ludicrous stance puts patients and those who care for them in an unconscionable position.

Nonetheless, health facilities certified to receive payment from the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services must comply with all federal laws in order to receive federal reimbursement for the services they provide. This bill would create significant conflicts between federal and state law that cannot be taken lightly. Therefore, I begrudgingly veto this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

