



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 25 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2004 without my signature.

This bill would require the Government Operations Agency to establish a working group to explore the use of verifiable health credentials to communicate COVID-19 or other medical test results, and to report on best practices by July 1, 2022.

I appreciate the innovative spirit of this bill. However, the California COVID-19 Testing Task Force is already able to convene stakeholders and experts to discuss innovation in testing and reporting as needed. Currently, the state has multiple ongoing efforts and investments around COVID-19 testing.

As an avenue to capitalize on California's innovation economy to meet government needs, last year I established the Request for Innovative Ideas (RFI²) process as a competitive procurement approach that seeks to engage innovators, entrepreneurs, scientists, vendors, and experts to collaborate on designing leading-edge solutions. Just this month, my Administration utilized the RFI² process to request new solutions for how to collect COVID-19 test specimens, transport them to processing labs, and deliver test results.

At a time when California is facing fiscal constraints and unprecedented challenges, the millions of dollars this bill would cost would be better spent on timely solutions to meet our most pressing needs.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

