



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2021

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1542 without my signature.

AB 1542 would authorize the County of Yolo to offer a pilot program that would allow individuals struggling with substance use disorders, who have been convicted of qualifying drug-motivated crimes, to be placed in a Secured Residential Treatment Program.

I understand the importance of developing programs that can divert individuals away from the criminal justice system, but coerced treatment for substance use disorder is not the answer. While this pilot would give a person the choice between incarceration and treatment, I am concerned that this is a false choice that effectively leads to forced treatment. I am especially concerned about the effects of such treatment, given that evidence has shown coerced treatment hinders participants' long-term recovery from their substance use disorder. For these reasons, I am returning this bill.

Sincerely,


Gavin Newsom

