



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 25 2022

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1880 without my signature.

This bill would require a health plan or insurer to have a clinical peer review when a provider appeals a denial of requests for step therapy exception, exception requests for coverage of nonformulary drugs, and prior authorization of prescription drugs.

Health plans and health insurers should make every effort to streamline utilization management processes and reduce barriers to all medically necessary care. However, the bill's requirements, which are limited to denied authorizations for prescription drugs, are duplicative of California's existing Independent Medical Review requirements, which provide enrollees, insureds, and their designated representatives with the opportunity to request an external review from an independent provider. I encourage the Legislature to pursue options that leverage existing requirements and resources, rather than creating duplicative new processes.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom

