



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**SEP 25 2022**

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2516 without my signature.

This bill would expand the definition of "comprehensive family planning services" under the Family Planning, Access, Care and Treatment (Family PACT) program to include the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine as a covered benefit for children and adolescents ages 9 to 18 years of age. For this age group, the HPV vaccine is available through Medi-Cal and the Vaccines for Children (VFC) programs. As a result, AB 2516's proposal to provide the HPV vaccine in the Family PACT program to individuals who are already covered through the VFC program would result in millions of dollars in General Fund expenditures not included in the Budget Act of 2022 and would not be available for federal reimbursement.

The 2022 Budget Act includes \$8 million (\$4.6 million General Fund) to add the HPV vaccine under the FamilyPACT program for individuals ages 19 through 45. While I support the author's efforts to address STI prevention, proposals with an ongoing fiscal impact should be considered through the annual budget process.

With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.

The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal

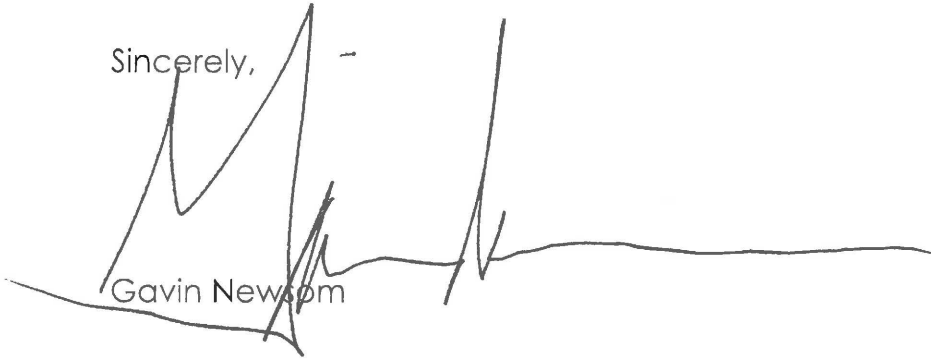


impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', written over the printed name. The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal line extending to the right.