



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 27 2022

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1446 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), when revising its relevant policies, regulations, and grant program criteria, to ensure that an individualized range of services and supports, including "housing that heals," is provided to an individual with a severe mental disorder. The bill also prohibits the expansion of any state obligation to provide access to behavioral health-related treatment, housing that heals, or other services and supports.

I share the author's concern regarding the need for increased behavioral health services and housing supports, especially for individuals who need it the most. This is why my Administration has invested more than \$8 billion to ensure that California's most vulnerable populations have access to timely, necessary, and life-saving prevention, early intervention, treatment, recovery, housing, and harm reduction behavioral health services, including \$4.7 billion for the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative, \$2.2 billion for the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program, \$1.5 billion for the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Project, \$100 million for the Medication Assisted Treatment Expansion Project, and \$175 million for grants to Support Wellness and Build Resilience of Children, Youth, and Parents. These activities are in addition to the hundreds of local and statewide programs California has developed through the use of more than \$2 billion in federal grant funds.



The bill provides two conflicting directives: expanding access to behavioral health services to "any individual" in need, regardless of Medi-Cal eligibility while not expanding DHCS' current obligations to provide access. Increasing the availability and access to behavioral health services can only be accomplished through thoughtful, substantive and adequately-funded policy initiatives.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end, positioned over the printed name 'Gavin Newsom'.