



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 29 2022

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 284 without my signature.

This bill would expand the existing rebuttable presumption for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) injury to additional classes of active firefighting members and peace officers, and adds public safety dispatchers, public safety telecom and emergency response communication employees.

Current law, applicable for injuries occurring on or after 2020 and to be repealed on 1/1/2025, allows a rebuttable presumption of PTSD injury to apply for specified classes of active firefighting members, peace officers, and fire and rescue service coordinators who work for the Office of Emergency Services. This presumption is a careful step acknowledging the increasingly hazardous conditions to which the subject class members are exposed, balanced against the principles of workers' compensation law that dictates conservatism with respect to presumptions and psychiatric injuries. As such, it was intended to allow for the study of the benefits and effectiveness of the PTSD presumption.

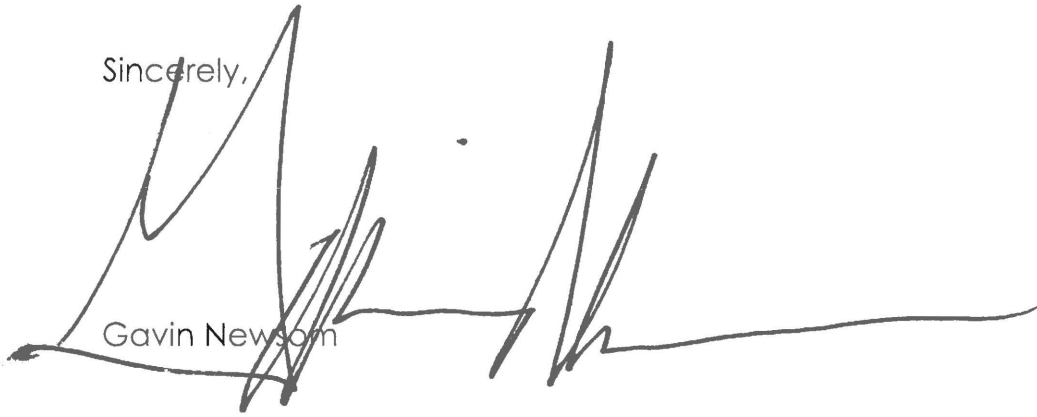
Expanding coverage of the PTSD injury presumption to significant classes of employees before any studies have been conducted on the existing class for whom the presumption is temporarily in place could set a dangerous precedent that has the potential to destabilize the workers' compensation system going forward, as stakeholders push for similarly unsubstantiated presumptions.



For this reason, 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 with a large initial 'G' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.