



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 27 2022

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 861 without my signature.

This bill would establish the Dementia Care Navigator Grant Pilot Program within the California Department of Aging to incentivize organizations that provide services to local communities to provide dementia care navigation training services.

The need for quality, culturally competent care is a priority of my administration. As an example of this commitment, the 2022 Budget Act included \$281.4 million over three years to recruit, train, and certify community health workers who can provide dementia care navigation, among other services. This bill creates more than \$6 million in General Fund cost pressures that were not accounted for in the budget.

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.

While I am unable to sign this bill, I am directing the Department of Health Care Access and Information to work with stakeholders including those that work on dementia care as they begin to develop and implement the Community Health Worker program established by SB 184 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 47, Statutes of 2022), and funded by the Budget Act of 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible due to the cursive nature of the handwriting.

Gavin Newsom