



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 29 2022

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 912 without my signature.

This bill would require health care service plans, including the Medi-Cal program, to provide coverage for biomarker testing for the purposes of diagnosis, treatment, appropriate management, or ongoing monitoring of a person's disease or condition, as long as the test is supported by medical and scientific evidence, as defined in the bill.

While I appreciate the author's efforts to provide biomarker testing coverage, these services are already covered by Medi-Cal. Furthermore, biomarker testing is valuable when it can inform a condition's diagnosis and treatment, but this bill would require Medi-Cal to cover unnecessary testing that may not inform the best treatment to care for the beneficiary.

For example, this bill would require the Department of Health Care Services (Department) to cover biomarker testing supported by local coverage determinations, which can contradict each other, and tests supported by "nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines and consensus statements," which may not be evidenced-based. In contrast, Medi-Cal policy is based upon the gold standard of guidelines with standards set by the National Academy of Medicine.

This bill would establish broad and contradictory coverage requirements that go beyond the Department's evidence-based policies, which would unnecessarily



increase costs without increasing the quality of coverage. I believe the Department should retain its current flexibility to establish evidence-based policies in light of the dynamic and changing nature of medicine.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with several sharp peaks and loops.

Gavin Newsom