



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1145 without my signature.

This bill would establish a statutory post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) presumption for certain state nurses, psychiatric technicians, and various medical and social services specialists employed by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), the State Department of Developmental Services (DDS), and the State Department of State Hospitals (DSH), who provide direct care to prison inmates and state hospital patients.

I am a firm supporter of the ability of individuals to seek treatment for mental health conditions and my Administration has initiated multiple programs to provide our valued workforce with mental wellness support during times of trauma. Additionally, the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Acute Stress Disorder Guideline was adopted in 2019.

PTSD is compensable under the workers compensation system. However, altering the burden of proof through a presumption should be provided sparingly and based upon the unique hazards or proven difficulty of establishing a direct relationship between a disease or injury and the employee's work. Although well-intentioned, the need for the presumption envisioned by this bill must be supported by clear and compelling evidence.



For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat obscured by the line it crosses.

Gavin Newsom