



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 07 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

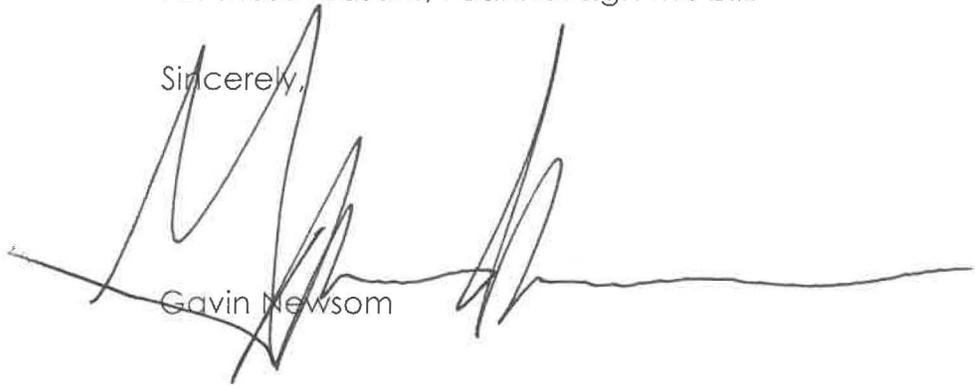
I am returning Assembly Bill 1645 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit health plans from imposing cost sharing for specified preventive or screening services and associated office visits and would require plans to directly reimburse nonparticipating essential community providers for sexually transmitted infections (STI) screenings and services.

I appreciate the author's efforts to increase access to preventive health care, including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and STI testing, colorectal screening, and other services. However, components of this proposal depart from structures in federal and state law, such as the existing policies for reimbursement to non-contracted providers. Further, because this bill exceeds the cost-sharing provisions under the Affordable Care Act, it would result in increased costs to health plans passed on to consumers through premiums. The State must weigh the potential benefits of all new mandates with the comprehensive costs to the entire delivery system.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom