



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 07 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 608 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to cover additional services as part of Medi-Cal's Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP) and allow non-licensed perinatal health workers to provide services in a beneficiary's home or community setting, upon federal approval.

I support the author's goal to improve maternal health outcomes and reduce disparities. However, Medi-Cal already provides full-scope coverage for one year after pregnancy, and DHCS is actively working on a "Birthing Care Pathway" proposal to improve services provided during the perinatal period, reduce maternal mortality, and address disparities in maternal health outcomes. Given the significant ongoing General Fund costs of over \$20 million annually to implement this bill, it should be evaluated as part of the annual budget process.

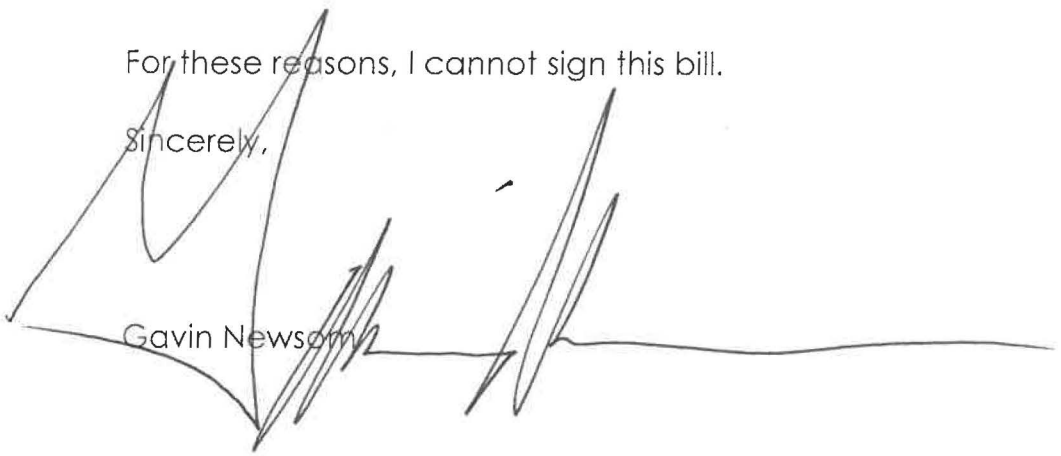
In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing.

With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure.

For these reasons, 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 and somewhat illegible due to the cursive and overlapping strokes.