



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 07 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 620 without my signature.

This bill would require health plans to cover formulas that are part of a medically necessary diet for the treatment of chronic digestive diseases and inherited metabolic disorders.

While I support individuals with these conditions having access to the nutritional support they may need, I am concerned this bill would exceed the state's set of essential health benefits, which are established by the state's benchmark plan under the provisions of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). As such, this bill's mandate would require the state to defray the costs of coverage in Covered California. This would not only increase ongoing state General Fund costs, but it would set a new precedent by adding requirements that exceed the benchmark plan. A pattern of new coverage mandate bills like this could open the state to millions to billions of dollars in new costs to cover services relating to other health conditions. This creates uncertainty for our healthcare system's affordability.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

