To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 632 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit a health plan contract or insurance policy that is amended, renewed, or delivered on or after January 1, 2024, from applying a deductible, copayment, or coinsurance for prostate cancer screening services for an enrollee who is at a heightened risk of prostate cancer.

According to the California Health Benefits Review Program, approximately 97% of enrollees currently have coverage for prostate cancer screening without cost sharing and the remaining 3% pay an estimated $10 per screening. While the author’s intent to increase prostate cancer screenings is commendable, this bill exceeds the cost sharing provisions under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). As such, this bill would result in increased costs to consumers through higher 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