



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 07 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 719 without my signature.

This bill would require Medi-Cal managed care plans that provide nonemergency or nonmedical transportation to contract with public paratransit service operators for the purpose of establishing reimbursement rates, if federal approvals are obtained.

I support efforts to encourage more public paratransit service operators to enroll as nonmedical transportation providers in Medi-Cal, which is permitted under existing law. It would be beneficial to have more options for nonmedical transportation in the Medi-Cal system. This bill takes a different approach, however, requiring the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to pursue a series of federal approvals that are not currently allowable under federal guidance. It would not be prudent to use state resources for this purpose.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom

