



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 07 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 85 without my signature.

This bill would require health plans to provide coverage and reimbursement to health care providers for social determinants of health screenings, beginning January 1, 2027. The bill would also require the Department of Health Care Access and Information to convene a working group to inform policies on social determinants of health and to submit a report to the Legislature with findings and recommendations by January 1, 2026.

My Administration has made significant investments in policies that contemplate and improve social determinants of health, such as housing, social services, community engagement, economic development, and public education. While I support the overall goal of this proposal, it is duplicative of existing efforts, such as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) screenings and the work the Department of Health Care Services is doing through California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM). Further this bill may be premature; a standardized social determinants of health screening tool does not yet exist, though there are federal efforts ongoing. Our state policy should align with these national efforts to avoid conflicting policies.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

