



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 07 2023

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 257 without my signature.

This bill would require health plans to provide coverage without cost-sharing for screening mammography, medically necessary diagnostic or supplemental breast examinations, diagnostic mammography, testing for screening or diagnostic purposes, and medically necessary diagnostic breast imaging.

I appreciate the author's efforts to improve access to preventive health care services, particularly breast cancer. Breast cancer screenings save lives, which is why health plans already must provide coverage for primary screening mammograms, without cost sharing for women aged 40 to 74. However, this bill exceeds the cost sharing provisions under the Affordable Care Act. As such, this policy would result in unknown costs to health plans passed on to consumers through 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