



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 07 2023

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 271 without my signature.

This bill would outline right to repair requirements for businesses that repair complex rehabilitation technology (CRT) powered wheelchairs and would prohibit the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) from requiring prior authorization for the repair of a CRT powered wheelchair if the cost of the repair does not exceed \$1,250.

While I appreciate the author's efforts to increase accessibility and affordability for CRT wheelchair users, prior authorization is a key safeguard for cost containment and prevention of abuse in the Medi-Cal program. Further, setting a monetary threshold for prior authorization in statute creates an additional barrier, should the amount need adjustment in the future.

While I am unable to sign this bill, I am directing DHCS to review the current treatment authorization request policies for complex rehabilitative technology powered wheelchairs and make any necessary adjustments administratively.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

