



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 641 without my signature.

This bill would require the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to make all U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved formulations and dosage strengths of naloxone, or any other opioid antagonist, available through the Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP).

The NDP was created to combat the opioid crisis by providing free naloxone in a dosage strength that is safest for public use. Since October 2018, the NDP has provided more than 2.5 million free naloxone kits to first responders, community and harm reduction organizations, schools, public health agencies, and others.

Though well intentioned, this bill could lead to the distribution of formulations and dosage strengths which may not be suited for the general public and may be more costly than other equally effective formulations. If it is determined that there is a need to add new formulations or dosages to the NDP in the future, that can be accomplished administratively.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

