



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 07 2023

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 90 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit health plans from imposing a copayment of more than \$35 for a 30-day supply of an insulin prescription drug.

Bringing down the costs of prescription drugs, and particularly insulin, has long been a priority of mine. People should not be forced to go into debt to get lifesaving medicines. In March, I announced the state's partnership with Civica to create our own line of CalRx biosimilar insulins that will cost no more than \$30 per 10mL vial or \$55 for five 3mL cartridges. This is a fraction of the current price for most insulins, and CalRx biosimilar insulins will be available to insured and uninsured patients nationwide. With CalRx, we are getting at the underlying cost, which is the true sustainable solution to high-cost pharmaceuticals. With copay caps however, the long-term costs are still passed down to consumers through higher premiums from health plans. As a state, we have led the nation in our efforts and investments to address the true underlying costs of insulin prescription affordability.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom