



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 14 2024

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1470 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to consult with stakeholders on the standardization of data elements and forms for behavioral health services provided under the Medi-Cal program. The department would also be required to conduct regional training on the use of the forms, complete an analysis of the utilization, and prepare reports to the Legislature with the findings.

While I agree with the author's intent to improve documentation standards and reduce administrative burdens, this bill is duplicative. The Behavioral Health Documentation Redesign effort, implemented as part of the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative, included a stakeholder engagement process that resulted in updated documentation guidance that became effective January 1, 2024. This bill would, therefore, negate existing efforts to engage with stakeholders and address documentation standardization challenges.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely, —

Gavin Newsom

