



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 25 2024

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1975 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to make medically supportive food and nutrition interventions a permanent covered benefit under the Medi-Cal program, and to establish a medically supportive food and nutrition benefit stakeholder advisory workgroup.

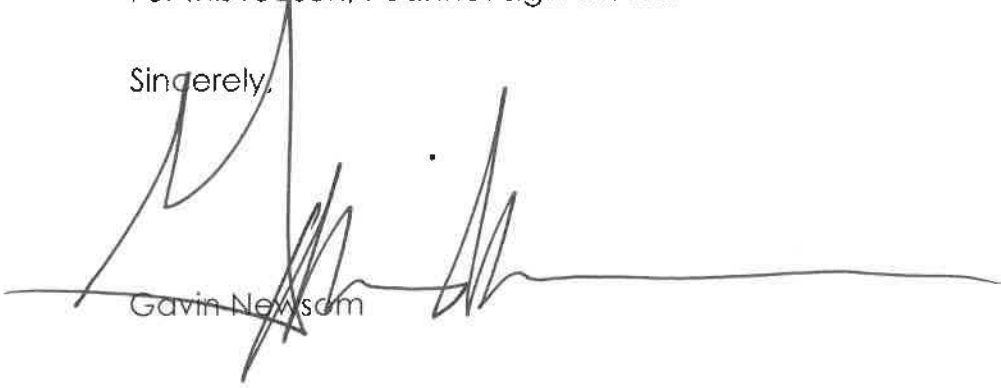
I appreciate the author's goal to provide low-income Californians on Medi-Cal with nutritious meals. Increasing access to nutritious foods and encouraging healthy eating habits contributes to the prevention and treatment of chronic conditions. However, this bill would result in significant and ongoing General Fund costs for the Medi-Cal program that are not included in the budget. I encourage the Legislature to explore this policy next year as a part of the annual budget process.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.



For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible due to the cursive nature of the handwriting.

Gavin Newsom