



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 22 2024

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1977 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit a health plan from requiring an enrollee who was previously diagnosed with pervasive developmental disorder (PDD) or autism to be reevaluated or receive a new behavioral diagnosis to maintain coverage.

Under existing law, health plans may require utilization review (UR) to ensure enrollees receive the right care at the right time and to control costs for unnecessary services. Plans are prohibited from conducting UR more frequently than prescribed or recommended by the nonprofit professional association for the relevant clinical specialty, such as the Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP). While plans should make every effort to streamline UR processes and reduce unnecessary burdens for families, prohibiting reasonable UR entirely does not strike an appropriate balance.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

