



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 27 2024

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2446 without my signature.

This bill would expand existing Medi-Cal coverage of diapers to include individuals greater than 3 years old with a physical, mental, neurological, or behavioral health condition that contributes to incontinence, and members less than 21 years old to correct or ameliorate a condition pursuant to the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) standards.

I deeply appreciate and share the author's commitment to assisting low-income Californians with access to affordable diapers for their families and thank the author for her focus on this important issue. However, diapers are already covered under existing Medi-Cal benefits when used for the management of a medical condition that causes incontinence. Specifically, children under 5 years old may receive medically necessary diapers as a covered EPSDT benefit, and diapers for youth 5 years to 21 years old with a chronic condition that causes incontinence are also covered.

While this bill largely overlaps with existing coverage, the standards applied would expand coverage to include conditions that contribute to incontinence. This change results in significant and ongoing General Fund costs for the Medi-Cal program that should be evaluated as a part of the annual budget process.

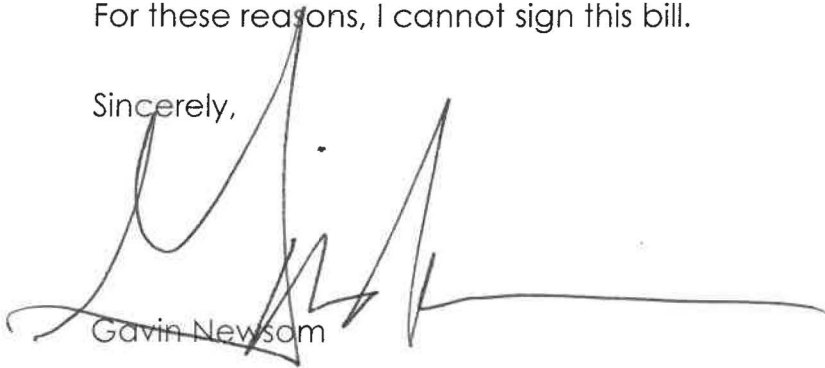
In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and



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 these reasons, 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 with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gavin Newsom