



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**SEP 20** 2024

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2490 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) to administer the Reproductive Health Emergency Preparedness Program (RHEPP), a new competitive grant program to expand and improve access to reproductive and sexual health care in emergency departments across California.

I strongly support increasing the availability of and promoting access to safe and affordable reproductive health care in California. The 2022-23 Budget Act appropriated \$120 million to HCAI to establish five programs designed to expand abortion-related care and reproductive health services across the State, including the Reproductive Health Service Corps. I appreciate the author's continued partnership and efforts to increase and improve access to reproductive care and trained providers. However, this bill is unfunded.

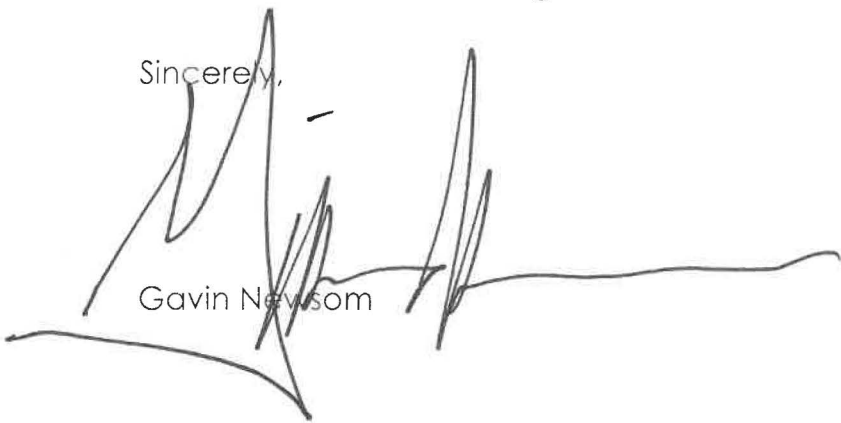
In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is 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,

Gavin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gavin Newsom", written over the printed name. The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.