



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 25 2024

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 718 without my signature.

This bill would require, upon appropriation, the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to establish a program to fund an academic study of mental health among women veterans in California and to submit a report summarizing the findings and recommendations of the study to the Legislature no later than July 31, 2025.

While I am supportive of the author's goal of advancing research on mental health among women veterans in the state, approving this measure would presume funding in next year's budget cycle, and the timeline established by this bill would not provide CalVet adequate time to provide a substantive report. I encourage the author to work to secure the necessary funding for this study within 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 and somewhat illegible.

Gavin Newsom