OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 29 2024

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1281 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to establish standardized processes and procedures for the Self-Determination Program (SDP) by January 1, 2026, and require DDS to ensure that the state's regional centers are applying these new standards consistently.

The statewide Self-Determination Program provides individuals with developmental disabilities and their families with increased freedom, control, and responsibility in the decisions, resources, and services included in their Individual Program Plan. I share the author's intent to increase equitable access to the SDP and improve standards and consistency throughout the system. However, the California Health and Human Services Agency is currently leading the development of the Master Plan for Developmental Services, with active stakeholder participation and contribution to the vision. Part of this process includes making recommendations to improve the implementation of the SDP, and as such, this platform should be utilized to advance these conversations. I look forward to considering any future proposals that will make improvements to the SDP for the benefit of consumers and families.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom