



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 20 2024

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1319 without my signature.

This bill would authorize a licensed skilled nursing facility (SNF) that applies to provide therapeutic behavioral health programs to submit an application and receive approval from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), the Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) simultaneously.

I share the author's goal to make the government review process more efficient for SNFs seeking to provide therapeutic behavioral health programs. However, a simultaneous application process, as proposed by this bill, would not shorten the application approval timeline as intended. HCAI, CDPH, and DHCS must sequence their reviews in the approval process. A facility must first meet the physical requirements for approval, then it can be reviewed for licensure, and only once licensed, may it be considered for Medi-Cal reimbursement. As such, requiring simultaneous review would result in the departments reviewing incomplete information, which could actually result in additional delays.

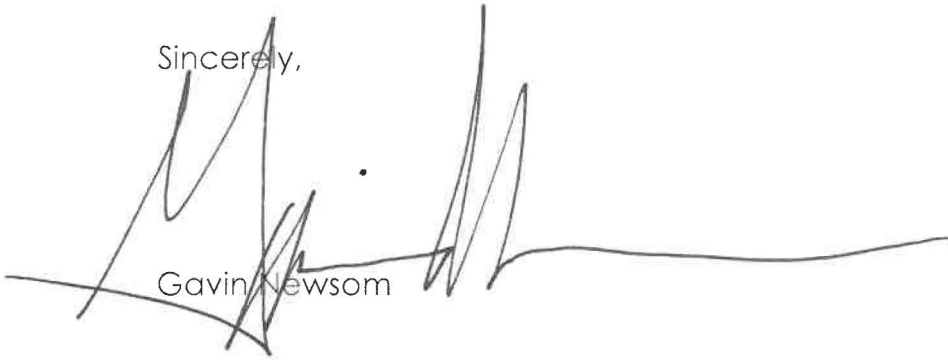
Though the simultaneous application process proposed in this bill is not feasible, I have directed HCAI, CDPH, and DHCS to identify any opportunities to improve communication and interaction during the review process.



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 somewhat illegible due to overlapping lines.