



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**SEP 28 2024**

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 357 without my signature.

This bill would make physician reporting of medical conditions characterized by lapses of consciousness to local health officers and, subsequently, the Department of Motor Vehicles discretionary rather than mandatory.

While I understand the intent to provide physicians more discretion in reporting, I am not convinced that transitioning to a discretionary reporting system would be equally effective in protecting patient and public safety. Additionally, the proposed immunity from liability for physicians raises concerns about accountability. Any changes to these reporting requirements must be carefully evaluated to maintain proper safeguards for public safety.

Lastly, this bill introduces costs not accounted for in the 2024 Budget Act and adds financial pressure to the Motor Vehicle Account. 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 dark ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Newsom'. The signature is stylized with sharp, angular strokes and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gavin Newsom