



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 20 2024

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 636 without my signature.

This bill would require, for private employers, that utilization review (UR) under the workers' compensation system be performed by medical professionals licensed under California law.

While I appreciate the author's intent to increase accountability in the UR process, I am concerned about the lack of data to warrant the changes proposed by this bill. Existing workers' compensation law already provides a regulatory structure that holds utilization review organizations and their utilization reviewers accountable for their decisions. Additionally, the bill would result in differential treatment for employees of private employers versus public employers while also narrowing the pool of utilization reviewers, causing potential delays in medical treatment and increased administrative costs to private employers. /

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

