



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 29 2024

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 729, which will require a large group health plan to provide coverage for infertility and fertility services, including in vitro fertilization (IVF), with a maximum of three completed oocyte retrievals and unlimited embryo transfers, beginning July 1, 2025, and delay its implementation for CalPERS until July 1, 2027.

California is a reproductive freedom state. As a national leader for increasing access to reproductive health care and protecting patients and providers, including those under assault in other states, I want to be clear that the right to fertility care and IVF is protected in California. In many other states, this is not the case. I wholeheartedly agree that starting a family should be attainable for those who dream to have a child — inclusive of LGBTQ+ families.

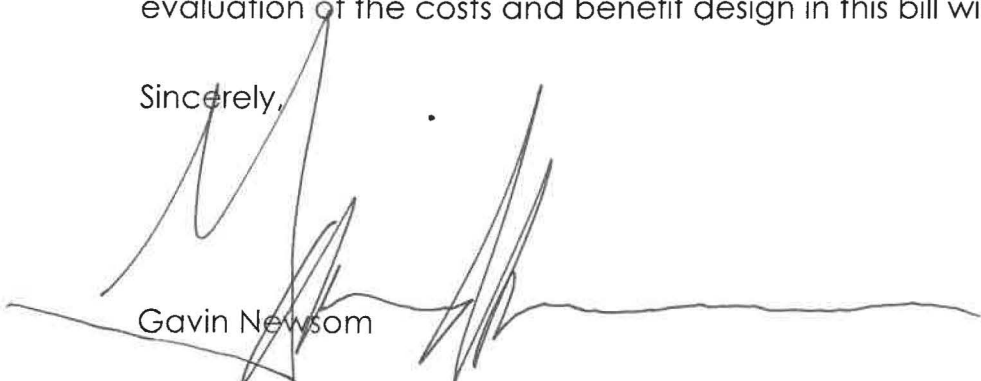
There is a better way to strengthen IVF coverage across California's health care delivery system, and the state has already begun this work. In January of this year, we started the process of updating the state's "benchmark" plan, which will set a new standard for commercial insurance health coverage. The services under evaluation specifically include infertility treatment and IVF. The state's proposed benefit design will be released later this year and adopted by the Legislature by May 2025.

I expect that IVF coverage will be included in the benchmark plan proposal adopted next spring, but may differ from the one in this bill. As a part of that process, I request that the Legislature change the effective date of this measure



from July 1, 2025 to January 1, 2026, upon their return in January to allow an evaluation of the costs and benefit design in this bill within that broader context.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom