



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 13 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1032 without my signature.

This bill would require large group health care service plans and insurers to reimburse an eligible enrollee for up to 12 visits with a licensed behavioral health (BH) provider if the enrollee lives in a county where a local or state emergency is proclaimed due to wildfires and experienced a loss, trauma, or displacement because of the fire. This bill would prohibit these benefits from being subject to utilization review (UM) and would apply regardless of whether a licensed BH provider is a contracting provider.

While I share the authors' concerns regarding the increased need for behavioral health services following a wildfire disaster, all enrollees in commercial plans already maintain coverage for behavioral health visits, regardless of whether they live in a county where a local or state emergency is declared. Additionally, this bill creates a broad exception to UM practices, including out-of-network limits, which are standard managed care protocols that ensure appropriate care while limiting unnecessary costs. At a time when consumers are facing double-digit rate increases in their health care premiums across the nation, passing additional policies that would lead to further premium increases would be irresponsible.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

