



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 06 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly

I am returning Assembly Bill 512 without my signature.

This bill would shorten the required response times for health plans and insurers for prior authorization (PA) requests submitted by providers. For standard requests submitted electronically, the timeline would be shortened from five business days to three business days. For urgent requests, the required response timeline would be 24 hours for requests submitted electronically and 48 hours for requests that are not submitted electronically.

I strongly support the goal of improving the PA process. Accordingly, I recently signed SB 306 (Becker), which seeks to ensure that enrollees receive timely responses to requests for care by taking a holistic approach to improve the PA process. Under this new law, health plans and health insurers are required to submit data to the California Department of Managed Health Care and the California Department of Insurance, respectively, regarding the types of health care services subject to PA requirements. The departments must analyze the data and then issue a list of services that should not be subject to a PA requirement by 2027.

I am concerned that this bill's significantly shortened deadlines may inadvertently increase the number of denials and force health care plans to make critical decisions with incomplete or inaccurate information. I believe SB



306 is a more balanced approach to improve the PA system as a whole,  
alleviate burdens for providers, and improve patient outcomes in the long term.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom