



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 13 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 546 without my signature.

This bill would require large group health plans to cover, with a prescription, one portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) purifier for an enrollee or insured who is pregnant or diagnosed with asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) if they reside in or are displaced from a county where a local or state emergency has been declared due to wildfires.

I appreciate the author's intent to ensure victims of wildfires have continuous access to devices that enable cleaner air, such as purifiers. However, this bill's coverage mandate could have the unintended consequence of creating disparities and inequities for individuals who suffer from other health conditions. Further, a mandate to cover air purifiers sets a precedent that goes beyond coverage for basic health care services.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom