



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 11 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 81 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to fund an academic study of mental health among women veterans in California and, by June 30, 2029, submit a report to the Legislature summarizing the findings and recommendations.

I support the author's goal of furthering research into the mental health of women veterans in our state, but this bill would lead to significant fiscal costs outside of the budget. When I vetoed a similar measure last year, I encouraged the author to secure funding for this measure within the annual budget process.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom