



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 13 2025

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 418 without my signature.

This bill would require health plans and insurers to cover a 12-month supply of federal Food and Drug Administration-approved prescription hormone therapy, and necessary supplies for self-administration, prescribed by an in network provider and dispensed at one time without utilization management (UM).

I appreciate the author's intent to ensure patient access to the comprehensive care they need. While there are provisions of this bill that are worthy of support, I am concerned about the limitation on the use of UM, which is an important tool to ensure enrollees receive the right care at the right time. Prohibiting this cost containment strategy is likely to result in an increase in enrollee premiums to offset costs incurred by health plans and insurers. At a time when individuals are facing double-digit rate increases in their health care premiums across the nation, we must take great care to not enact policies that further drive up the cost of health care, no matter how well-intended.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom

