



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 27 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

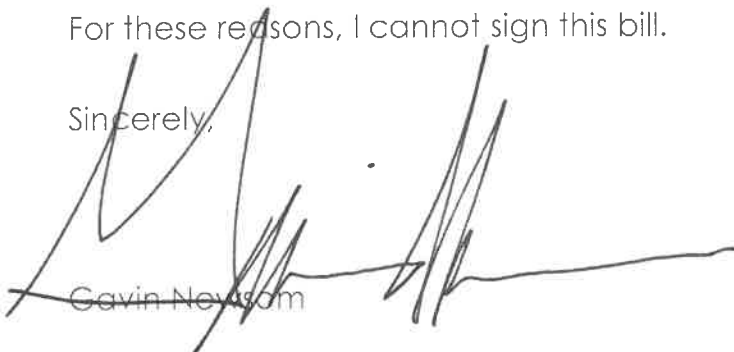
I am returning Assembly Bill 2282 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to issue a waiver to a publicly owned and operated general acute care hospital (GACH) collaborating with the Del Puerto Health Care District to allow the operation of a "rural emergency stabilization care unit," or a freestanding emergency department.

While I share the author's goal to provide emergency care access for rural communities, freestanding emergency departments have never legally operated in California. State law has long required that any emergency department be physically located within the hospital to ensure immediate access to necessary care. This bill would undermine patient safety by allowing the operation of an emergency department that lacks the statutorily required medical infrastructure of a GACH. In situations where every minute counts, evaluating and transferring patients to and from such a freestanding facility introduces unnecessary risks and delays, jeopardizing those with life-threatening conditions.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom