



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 27 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2571 without my signature.

This bill would require the Medi-Cal reimbursement rate for advanced practice pharmacist services to be at least 85% of the fee schedule for physician services, including Medication Therapy Management pharmacist services. The bill also would require the Department of Health Care Services to seek federal approval to recognize pharmacists as healthcare providers in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) for reimbursement in the Medi-Cal program.

I appreciate the author's intent to improve access to advanced pharmacist services for Medi-Cal members, especially for those seeking care at FQHCs or RHCs. However, this bill would result in millions of dollars in ongoing, annual costs related to FQHC reimbursement, as well as millions in one-time costs to implement the required system changes, neither of which were accounted for in this year's budget.

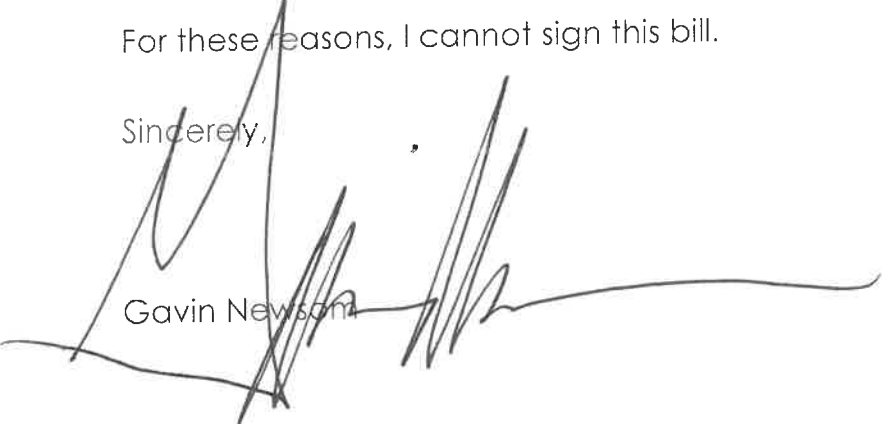
In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's 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

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, overlapping the text "Sincerely," and "Gavin Newsom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.