



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 18 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1591 without my signature.

This bill requires the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) to establish and administer the California Podiatric Pipeline Program.

While well-intentioned, this bill duplicates existing efforts. HCAI already administers workforce pathway programs that offer exposure to health professions, including podiatric medicine. Additionally, the two special funds referenced in the bill are already allocated for other purposes and thus cannot support this program, and no additional funds were made available for this specific purpose in this year's final budget agreement.

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

