



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 20 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1328 without my signature.

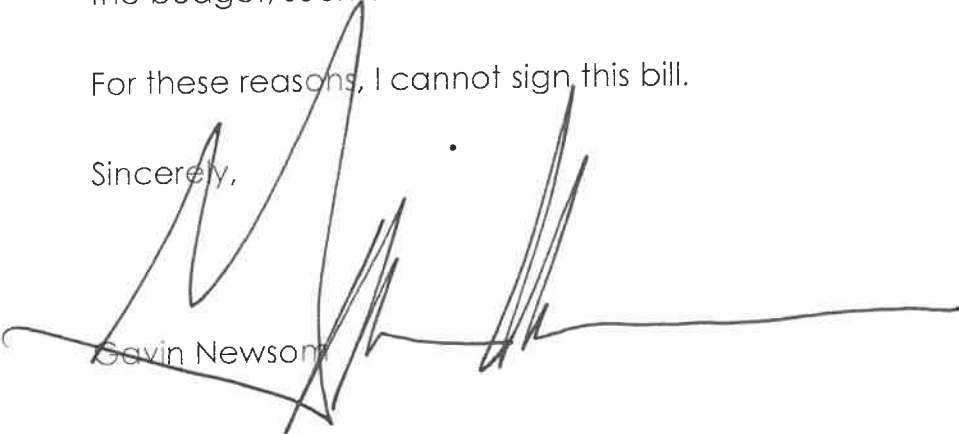
This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services to adjust the rates for nonemergency medical transportation to be reimbursed at 80% of the Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule, starting January 1, 2027.

While I appreciate the author's intent to support Medi-Cal members' access to nonemergency transportation services, mandating rate increases for ground ambulance services could create inappropriate incentives to utilize ambulance transport over other more appropriate and available modes of nonemergency transportation. Additionally, the rate increases required by this bill would have an annual General Fund impact in the tens of millions of dollars.

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

