



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 20 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 539 without my signature.

This bill would require approved prior authorizations for healthcare services requested by in-network providers to remain valid for at least one year, or for the period requested by the treating provider if less than one year.

While I appreciate the author's intent to reduce administrative burdens, this bill would apply prior authorizations too broadly, limiting health plans' ability to reassess medical necessity as a member's condition changes.

This could result in overutilization, inappropriate continuation of services, and unnecessary costs. The bill also conflicts with existing clinical guidelines and utilization management controls, undermining program integrity and flexibility to ensure that care remains appropriate for patients.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom