



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**OCT 11 2013**

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1208 without my signature.

AB 1208 would mandate that the single, standardized application for health insurance affordability programs include questions related to race, ethnicity, primary language, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, so that applicants can voluntarily report this information beginning in 2015.

We don't need to mandate these requirements in law. The Department of Health Care Services and Covered California already have the authority to modify these types of questions on the form, and they can work constructively with stakeholders to decide what is necessary to change for 2015 and beyond.

Sincerely,

  
Edmund G. Brown Jr.