



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 10 2015

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 172 without my signature.

This bill would increase from six months to one year in county jail the maximum punishment for assault or battery of a healthcare worker inside an emergency department.

Emergency rooms are overcrowded and often chaotic. I have great respect for the work done by emergency room staff and I recognize the daunting challenges they face every day. If there were evidence that an additional six months in county jail (three months, once good-time credits are applied) would enhance the safety of these workers or serve as a deterrent, I would sign this bill. I doubt that it would do either.

We need to find more creative ways to protect the safety of these critical workers. This bill isn't the answer.

Sincerely,

  
Edmund G. Brown Jr.