



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 26 2016

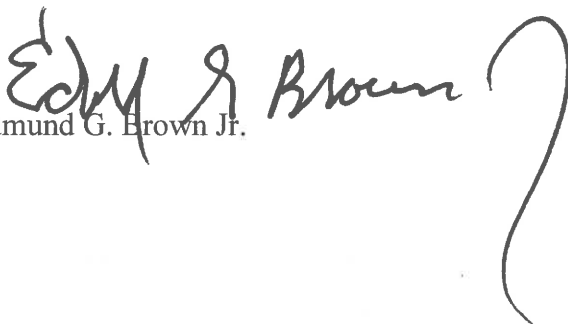
To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2179 without my signature.

This bill creates a hepatitis C counselor classification allowing a person who is trained to perform hepatitis C virus rapid tests to do so.

The Department of Public Health works with local health agencies to train HIV counselors who test for both HIV and hepatitis C. National health guidelines recommend people at risk for either of these diseases be tested for both. As such, I believe the existing counselor classification is more protective of public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edmund G. Brown Jr." with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Edmund G. Brown Jr.