



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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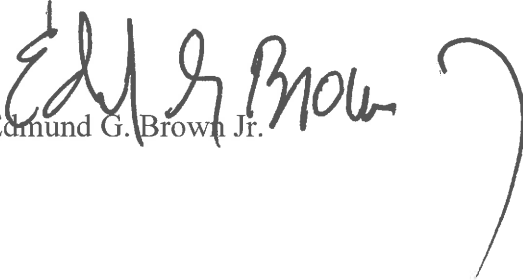
To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 521 without my signature.

This bill would mandate hospitals to offer an HIV test to consenting patients who have blood drawn after being admitted through the emergency department.

This bill is not the best approach to identifying those who are undiagnosed with HIV. The demographics of patients targeted by this bill do not match the demographics of the population at risk for exposure to HIV infection. In addition, hospitals are not appropriately staffed nor are they the place to provide counseling, routine preventive screenings, or follow-up care for sensitive HIV testing. Limited resources would be better spent supporting outreach and education activities by existing providers which have the staff and training for HIV testing and follow-up care.

Sincerely,


Edmund G. Brown Jr.