



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 29 2012

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 540 without my signature.

I commend the author for his efforts to mitigate the risks of alcohol and drug use for pregnant women and women of childbearing age in the Medi-Cal program.

The federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act requires comprehensive health care coverage to be provided in the private market and through public programs. Rather than embarking on this piecemeal effort, my administration will consider whether a more comprehensive approach to screening – for all Medi-Cal beneficiaries, including pregnant women and women of childbearing age – is possible, as we implement the changes that are necessary to comply with the Affordable Care Act.

Sincerely,

  
Edmund G. Brown Jr.