



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 09 2011

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 538 without my signature.

The Board of Registered Nursing protects consumers and regulates professional nursing in California and this measure would extend the existence of this longstanding regulatory body until 2016. Unfortunately, extraneous harmful provisions lurk within this otherwise benign sunset extension bill.

These provisions would dramatically expand pension benefits for a select group of the Board's investigators. This makes no sense fiscally and flies in the face of much needed pension reform.

It is unacceptable to jeopardize the extension of this Board's critical consumer protection role by allowing these provisions to be included in this otherwise simple sunset extension measure. The Board has existed for 106 years without these enhanced benefits and should continue to do so.

I would ask that as soon as it reconvenes, the Legislature send me legislation that both restores the Board of Registered Nursing and restores the provisions of law relating to "bureau status" for expired boards. In the interim, I direct my administration to take all actions necessary under the law to protect consumers and nurses alike until the Board is reconstituted in January.

Sincerely,


Edmund G. Brown Jr.