



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 27 2018

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1116 without my signature.

This bill creates a pilot peer support program for state correctional and parole officers, firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and dispatchers.

I appreciate the author's sincere attempt to address the occupational stress experienced by some of our bravest public servants. However, I believe that the scope of confidentiality afforded under this bill is too broad and fails to strike the right balance between fostering collegial trust and concealing information necessary to ensure safe and healthy workplaces.

Further, peer support programs are already in place for many public safety personnel, making this narrow pilot program largely duplicative and potentially in conflict with existing programs. I would recommend that instead of new statutory provisions, the sponsors and author work with the affected agencies to improve existing programs.

Sincerely,

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

Edmund G. Brown Jr.