



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 25 2014

To the Members of the California State Assembly:


I am returning Assembly Bill 2418 without my signature.

The bill would require health plans and insurers to apply a prorated daily cost-sharing rate to the refills of certain medications if the prescriber or pharmacist indicates it is in the best interest of the patient and it is for the purpose of synchronizing refill dates for the patient's medications. The bill also allows for early refills of covered eye products.

While I understand the importance of encouraging people to take their prescribed medications, the bill lacks explicit patient consent before changes are made to refills; nor does the bill speak to the supportive elements that have made synchronization programs anecdotally successful.

Medication adherence is complicated. Solutions to this problem will likely require a more holistic approach and collaboration between doctors, patients, pharmacists and health plans.

Sincerely,


Edmund G. Brown Jr.