



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 04 2021

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1207 without my signature.

This bill would establish the Pathways Through Pandemics Task Force within the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS) to study lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and to develop strategies to navigate future pandemics.

While I share the Legislature's goal of studying lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, this bill is duplicative of work already underway. Resources provided in the 2021 Budget already allows CHHS to provide an assessment of the state's COVID-19 public health response, which will evaluate the lessons learned and identify programmatic gaps.

The 2021 Budget also includes \$1.7 million for CHHS to conduct a retrospective analysis of the intersection of the COVID-19 pandemic and the health disparities that were further perpetuated due to the pandemic. This analysis will help the state better understand how health disparities fueled the pandemic and what can be done to prepare for future crises.



Due to these efforts already underway, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gavin Newsom", is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a long horizontal line extending to the right.