



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 04 2021

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 549 without my signature.

This bill would require social workers, if they are deemed essential workers during a state of emergency declared by the Governor, to be included in the first group of essential workers who are eligible to receive emergency materials and personal protective equipment (PPE).

Social workers provide vital services to children, families, and individuals and are a critical support during emergencies and disasters. It is imperative that they have the PPE necessary to do their jobs safely.

Existing law already protects and prioritizes essential workers, including social workers, for PPE distribution. Given uncertain and changing conditions in emergencies, this prioritization must be done in a manner that preserves flexibility for emergency response during a state of emergency.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

