

CAPITOL OFFICE
1021 O STREET
SUITE 7230
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4001

DISTRICT OFFICES
11230 GOLD EXPRESS DRIVE
SUITE 304
GOLD RIVER, CA 95670
TEL (916) 464-4201

1320 YUBA STREET
SUITE 102
REDDING, CA 96001
TEL (530) 224-7001

California State Senate

SENATOR
BRIAN DAHLE
FIRST SENATE DISTRICT



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SUBCOMMITTEE #2 ON
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NATURAL RESOURCES
& WATER
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September 28, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for Veto of AB 665 (Carrillo)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully request your veto of Assembly Bill 665 (Carrillo), which authorizes a minor 12 years or older to consent to mental health treatment or residential services without the knowledge or consent of their parents or guardians.

This bill erodes parental rights and control, and gives the state the authority to insert itself into family matters. Rather than allowing children to be under the influence of strangers, California should focus on giving parents the tools and freedoms they need to provide for their children. Parents know what is best for their children and California continuing to force its way into the personal decisions of families is wrong and should not be tolerated.

AB 665 removes the requirement that the minor be a threat to themselves or others, or a victim of child abuse or incest before they receive services. Current law requires these standards to be satisfied to ensure that children with abusive parents are able to receive the care that they need. I support the ability of children with abusive parents to receive these services because in those instances, the parents are not taking care of the child and not taking the needs of the child into account. However, by removing this requirement, AB 665 essentially allows any minor who is 12 years or older to consent to these services without parental knowledge or consent regardless of how healthy the child's home life is. This is a massive overreach of power by the state and frankly, as a parent, it frightens me.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Dahle".

Brian Dahle, Senator
1st Senate District