

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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RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION, & ENERGY
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NATURAL RESOURCES
& WATER
TRANSPORTATION

October 3, 2023

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

RE: Request for Veto of AB 816 (Haney)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully request your veto of Assembly Bill 816 (Haney), which authorizes a minor, age 16 or older, to consent to opioid use disorder treatment without the consent of the minor's parent or guardian.

While this bill may be workable for instances in which the child's parent or guardian is unwilling or unable to provide consent for the treatment due to their own addiction issues or in cases of abandonment or abuse, this bill does not specify to deal with those cases. Children going through the recovery process need as much love and support as they can get and removing parents from that process further complicates and exacerbates the problem.

AB 816 is also a major violation of parental rights. California's Constitution enshrines the rights of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children, meaning parents reserve the right to act as medical advocates for them including knowing the medical history and making important medical decisions. This bill undermines those rights. As a parent, I am terrified of the thought of losing the ability to make the best decisions for my children.

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