

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1029 without my signature.

When I signed legislation my first year in office allowing for a pilot program to allow the sale of syringes through participating counties and registered pharmacies, I was seeking to balance the competing public health, law enforcement and local control issues that this issue requires. I believe this balance was achieved and SB 1029 would remove the ability of local officials to best determine policies in their jurisdiction. Some counties have not sought to implement this pilot program, citing competing priorities, lack of pharmacy interest and law enforcement opposition.

I respect these local decisions and while I appreciate the author's hard work and dedication to this issue, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger