

To Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 1550 because I believe that it is important to protect California's vulnerable population from the financial abuse of unscrupulous professional fiduciaries that seek to do intentional harm.

However, clean-up legislation will be necessary in the next legislative session because of the way the author structured the bill. This bill establishes an unnecessary and complicated mechanism of transferring the responsibilities and jurisdiction of the newly created Professional Fiduciaries Bureau (Bureau) to a newly created Professional Fiduciaries Advisory Committee, which would then be established as a board within the Department of Consumer Affairs, after July 1, 2011. The creation of this arrangement is not justified and will leave consumers and the general public more confused by this regulatory scheme. Moreover, there is no rational, analytical justification to assume that in five years the Bureau would even need to be reconstituted as a full board. I would rather have a future Legislature evaluate that need at the time of the sunset review, instead of establishing the presumption now.

Therefore, my Administration will work with the Legislature to eventually clean up this bill so that the public can have faith that its State government is open, transparent, and easy to understand while protecting the interests of all Californians, especially its most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger