

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, I have vetoed Enrolled Senate Bill 1089.

While Senate Bill 1089 is well-intended, I am concerned that it shifts competency restoration decisions from qualified clinicians to judges and attorneys, which will result in worse outcomes for Oklahomans and higher burdens on taxpayers.

Additionally, many of the concerns raised by this bill have already been addressed in the Briggs v. Friesen consent decree, which was agreed to by the plaintiffs, the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Attorney General, and the Legislature. I'm concerned this bill would unnecessarily increase the Department's exposure to legal liability.

I encourage the Legislature and the Department to continue collaborating in good faith to develop mutually agreeable legislation that more effectively addresses the underlying concerns driving this proposal.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Enrolled Senate Bill 1089.