



April 17, 2025

The Honorable Mia Bonta
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
1020 N Street, Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 1196 (Gallagher) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Bonta:

Cardiac surgery saves lives. For Californians with life-threatening heart conditions — heart attacks, heart failure, and strokes, for example — these surgeries are literally the difference between life and death.

That’s why the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, supports Assembly Bill (AB) 1196. This vital legislation updates and modernizes regulations for cardiac surgery teams in general acute care hospitals and will help address workforce shortages; align California law with clinical best practices; and ensure patients receive timely, life-saving treatment.

By recognizing the critical role of physician assistants and qualified registered nurses as part of cardiovascular surgical teams, this bill provides greater flexibility to these teams while maintaining the highest standards of patient care.

Specifically, the current three-surgeon requirement for procedures involving extracorporeal cardiac bypass surgery does not reflect modern clinical practices or the capabilities of highly trained advanced practice providers. AB 1196 strikes the right balance between ensuring patient safety and supporting a more efficient, team-based approach to care delivery. This is especially needed in underserved and rural areas where recruiting multiple surgeons can be challenging.

Cardiac surgery saves lives, improves long-term heart health, and gives people a second chance at life. CHA appreciates the author’s leadership on this important issue.

For these reasons, **CHA requests your “AYE” vote on AB 1196.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Gonzalez" in a cursive script.

Vanessa Gonzalez
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable James Gallagher
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Health Committee
Lara Flynn, Principal Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Justin Boman, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus