



April 23, 2025

The Honorable Mike Fong
Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee
1020 N Street, Room 173
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 1400 (Soria) — SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Fong:

California is in the midst of a health care workforce crisis. The National Center for Health Workforce [projects](#) that by 2037, California will be short more than 65,000 full-time nurses — the third-largest nursing shortage in the U.S. and a sharp increase from 2021, when the state saw a [deficit of 40,000 registered nurses](#). A shortage of this magnitude would severely impact patients, as nurses often serve as their primary point of contact for care, questions, compassion, and more.

This is why the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, supports Assembly Bill (AB) 1400, which would require the chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program at 15 select community college districts statewide.

Community colleges play a vital role in providing accessible and quality postsecondary education, particularly for students facing financial, geographical, and logistical challenges — and this innovative solution would help to address California's health care workforce shortage, keeping health care services staffed and available to patients across the state.

By expanding baccalaureate degrees in nursing to community colleges, AB 1400 would empower more students to pursue higher education in nursing, helping to meet the demand for highly qualified nurses in health care settings.

Many hospitals prefer that nurses hold baccalaureate degrees, as this helps hospitals meet accreditation and quality standards; the education AB 1400 would make possible opens more doors for graduates, increasing their opportunities for jobs and career advancement.

Additionally, because community colleges serve a more diverse student population, AB 1400 would help the nursing workforce better reflect their communities, leading to better patient care and outcomes.

For these reasons, CHA requests your “AYE” vote on AB 1400.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Gonzalez

Vanessa Gonzalez
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Esmeralda Soria
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Higher Education Committee
Kevin Powers, Consultant, Assembly Education Committee
Lindsay Mitchell, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus