



May 27, 2026

The Honorable Akilah Weber Pierson, MD
Chair, Senate Health Committee
1020 N Street, Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 1607 (Gonzalez) — SUPPORT

Dear Senator Weber Pierson:

There is no greater priority for California’s hospitals than providing timely, appropriate care to all who come to an emergency department (ED). California’s EDs are experiencing unprecedented strain as a symptom of broader, systemwide challenges like limited inpatient capacity, discharge barriers and delays, shortages in post-acute and behavioral health placements, inadequate access to primary and preventive care, and increasing reliance on the 911 system for non-emergent needs. Despite these pressures, EDs remain open and provide care to all patients at all times. With ED visits at an all-time high — and approximately 2.1 million Californians estimated to lose health coverage by 2034 because of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) — protecting emergency care is more challenging and essential than ever.

On behalf of nearly 400 hospitals and health systems, the California Hospital Association (CHA) supports Assembly Bill (AB) 1607 (Gonzalez, D-Los Angeles), which would remove the sunset on the “Maddy” Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Fund and protect access to critical, lifesaving emergency health care.

The Maddy Fund is used to reimburse physicians and hospitals who treat uninsured patients in the ED, while also supporting other EMS-related efforts. In addition, 15% of the funds collected are allocated to the “Richie Fund,” which supports pediatric trauma centers. When uninsured patients are unable to pay for emergency services, a hospital or physician may submit a reimbursement request to their respective county’s Maddy Fund. While this funding does not cover the full cost of care, it helps EDs remain open and continue providing essential services to their communities. AB 1607 would make the Maddy Fund permanent, preserving a long-standing funding mechanism that supports emergency care delivery across California.

For these reasons, CHA requests your “YES” vote on AB 1607.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Gonzalez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vanessa Gonzalez
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Mark Gonzalez
The Honorable Members of the Senate Health Committee
Margarita Niemann, Consultant, Senate Health Committee
Joe Parra, Health Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus