



March 26, 2026

The Honorable Buffy Wicks  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
1021 O St., Room 8220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: AB 1868 (Gallagher) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Wicks:

For Californians with life-threatening heart conditions — such as heart attacks, heart failure, and strokes — cardiac surgery is the difference between life and death. Ensuring the regulations that govern these lifesaving procedures reflect modern care delivery is key to protecting high-quality patient care.

**That’s why the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of nearly 400 hospitals and health systems, supports Assembly Bill (AB) 1868. This practical solution would require the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to update regulations for cardiac surgery teams in general acute care hospitals to reflect current professional standards.**

By reflecting today’s advancements in medicine and current clinical standard, the updated regulations would help address workforce shortages; align California law with clinical best practices; and ensure patients receive timely, lifesaving treatment. Importantly, updating these regulations would have minimal impact on the state’s General Fund, as the costs would be covered by the Licensing and Certification Fund, which is supported by facility licensing fees.

Cardiac surgery 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 “YES” vote on AB 1868.**

Sincerely,

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

Vanessa Gonzalez  
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable James Gallagher  
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Allegra Kim, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Justin Boman, Health Policy Consultants, Assembly Republican Caucus