



March 2, 2026

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

SUBJECT: AB 1868 (Gallagher) — SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Bonta:

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 standards, the updated regulations would help address workforce shortages; align California law with clinical best practices; and ensure patients receive timely, lifesaving treatment.

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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vanessa Gonzalez
Vice President, State Advocacy

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