



June 9, 2026

The Honorable Akilah Weber Pierson, MD
Chair, Senate Health Committee
1021 O St., Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 1868 (Hadwick) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Weber Pierson:

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.

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 Heather Hadwick
The Honorable Members of the Senate Health Committee
Vince Marchand, Principal Consultant, Senate Health Committee
Joe Parra, Health Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus