



March 20, 2026

The Honorable Liz Ortega
Chair, Committee on Labor and Employment
1020 N Street, Room 155
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 1961 (Ahrens) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Ortega:

Health care workers in hospitals nationwide are increasingly subject to violent attacks and threats of violence. In addition to disrupting the health care environment, these instances also divert critical law enforcement and medical services away from the broader community. **Protecting those who care for patients in need is of grave importance to California hospitals, which is why the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of nearly 400 hospitals and health systems, supports Assembly Bill (AB) 1961 (Ahrens, D-Cupertino).**

AB 1961 would amend existing law so that California employers, including hospitals, may seek a protective order for a reasonably identifiable group or class of employees who are threatened by the same credible threat of harm. Existing law allows employers to seek a protective order on behalf of employees who face credible threats of violence while on the job but must identify each employee by name. Because some employees do not want their identities revealed, employers are unable to seek protection on their behalf. AB 1961 would remove this barrier by allowing class petitions to account for circumstances when threats are aimed at groups of employees or worksite and not a named individual.

Unfortunately, health care workers encounter threats of violence all too often. AB 1961 would give hospitals another tool to protect their workers from harm. For these reasons, **CHA requests your “YES” vote on AB 1961.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Scott", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathryn Scott
Senior Vice President, State Relations and Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Patrick Ahrens
The Honorable Members of the Committee on Labor and Employment
Megan Lane, Chief Consultant, Committee on Labor and Employment
Gino Folchi, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus