



March 12, 2026

The Honorable Marc Berman
Chair, Assembly Business and Professions Committee
1020 N Street, Room 379
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 2096 (Pacheco) — SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Berman:

Ensuring patients receive the care they need in the most appropriate setting is a priority across California's continuum of care. Licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) are an essential part of patients' care teams, particularly in long-term care settings such as skilled-nursing facilities (SNFs) and subacute care units. Limiting LVNs' ability to perform certain respiratory tasks restricts patients' access to medically necessary care and hampers patients' ability to remain in their preferred care setting.

That's why the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of nearly 400 hospitals and health systems — including more than 100 SNFs, as well as numerous subacute care units and home health agencies — supports Assembly Bill (AB) 2096 (Pacheco, D-Downey). This bill would allow LVNs to provide critical patient care, including performing respiratory tasks for which they are trained and qualified, across the range of settings where they have historically practiced under appropriate clinical supervision.

AB 2096 would amend current law to remove the authority of the Respiratory Care Board of California (RCB) to define the respiratory care tasks that may be performed by LVNs. It would also clarify that the authority to govern LVN scope of practice lies with the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (BVNPT), which has overseen the safe and effective performance of these tasks by LVNs for decades.

Existing statute and regulations that authorize the RCB to oversee and enforce LVN scope of practice for respiratory care tasks have created unnecessary confusion about the tasks an LVN can perform, depending on care settings. This has reduced access to care in settings where these tasks are restricted, disrupting the flow of patients from hospitals to lower levels of care.

AB 2096 would reverse these negative impacts on patient safety and access to long-term care settings, while supporting uniformity in LVN scope of practice under the appropriate oversight of the Legislature and BVNPT.

For these reasons, **CHA requests your “YES” vote on AB 2096.**

Sincerely,

Vanessa Gonzalez

Vanessa Gonzalez
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Blanca Pacheco
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Business and Professions Committee
Edward Franco, Consultant, Assembly Business and Professions Committee
Bill Lewis, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus