

May 15, 2026

CHA Position: **Vote YES on AB 2353**

To: The Honorable Members of the California State Assembly

From: Kathryn Scott, Senior Vice President, State Relations and Advocacy

AB 2353 (Pacheco) – Sponsor

The California Hospital Association, on behalf of nearly 400 hospitals and health systems, is proud to sponsor Assembly Bill (AB) 2353 (Pacheco, D-Downey), which would establish the Center for Health Provider Policy Impact to review the impact of state and federal policies on access to care, the cost of care, health outcomes, workforce, and system sustainability. The bill would:

- **Promote affordability by ensuring that costs are considered in major health care policy decisions.** Mandates placed on hospitals in the past three years alone have added billions of dollars in costs. These costs ultimately are borne by California families and patients in the form of higher insurance premiums and service costs; they are also a major contributor to the state's health care affordability challenges.
- **Help policymakers make the most informed decisions possible, based on timely and rigorous analysis.** The center would be housed within the University of California and provide comprehensive, independent, and academically rigorous analyses of proposed policies to support thoughtful deliberation.
- **Increase transparency in the policymaking process — without creating a new burden.** The center's role is simple: provide additional, credible information on which policymakers may rely. The center's work would be funded through fees on hospitals, not the General Fund.
- **Protect hospital care by ensuring that new requirements placed on hospitals strike the right balance in providing measurable benefits at reasonable costs.** With nearly half (44%) of hospitals operating in the red, even before the One Big Beautiful Bill Act's health care cuts go into effect, policymakers must be mindful about placing new costly mandates on hospitals.

For these reasons, the California Hospital Association, on behalf of nearly 400 hospitals and health systems, strongly urges your YES vote on AB 2353.