



February 27, 2025

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

RE: AB 278 (Ransom) — SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Bonta:

California's hospitals know that efforts to create a more affordable, accessible, and equitable health care system must put patients first. **That's why the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, supports Assembly Bill (AB) 278, which seeks to establish a Patient Advocate Advisory Committee within the Office of Health Care Affordability (OHCA).**

This bill would create a critically needed forum to incorporate the voices of patients — particularly those living with rare and chronic conditions — into decisions impacting access to high-quality health care across California.

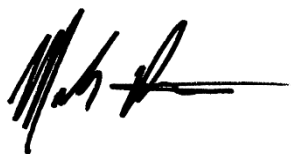
Californians grappling with rare and complex diseases face significant challenges, including a greater need for health care services, making them particularly vulnerable to cost control measures. These patients often depend on specialized care and expensive treatments essential for their well-being. However, the current cost-control strategies implemented by OHCA could inadvertently restrict access to necessary care. Without the involvement of those directly affected, OHCA's efforts could exacerbate the difficulties faced by vulnerable patients.

AB 278 allows patient advocates to actively participate in the formulation of health care policy, ensuring that patient needs are central to any cost-control initiatives. The proposed Patient Advocate Advisory Committee would serve as a vital platform for patients to contribute recommendations regarding health care affordability, quality, and access, especially for those with complex, long-term needs who require consistent access to high-quality, affordable care.

CHA is committed to ensuring that health care reforms prioritize the health care needs of all Californians, including those with chronic and rare diseases. CHA strongly asks for your support for AB 278, which will help guarantee that efforts to improve the affordability of California's health care system do not come at the expense of Californians with greater health needs.

For these reasons, CHA supports AB 278.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Farouk', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Farouk
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Rhodesia Ransom
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Health Committee
Lisa Murawski, Principal Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Justin Boman, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus