



April 17, 2025

The Honorable Buffy Wicks  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 8220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: AB 440 (Ramos) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Wicks:

Every day, California hospital emergency departments treat patients experiencing suicidal thoughts or self-harming injuries, and self-harm is now the third leading cause of injury-related emergency department visits. Given the growing number of individuals at risk of suicide, the California Hospital Association (CHA) supports efforts to improve safety measures to protect lives.

**That's why CHA, on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, supports Assembly Bill (AB) 440, which would require the state Office of Suicide Prevention to collaborate with the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to identify cost-effective strategies to reduce suicides and suicide attempts on the state's bridges and roadways.**

This bill does not impose major costs on either the Office of Suicide Prevention or Caltrans, nor does it obligate the state to pay for immediate construction of suicide mitigation structures on bridges and roadways. AB 440 simply requires the two state agencies to collaborate and prepare a report identifying strategies that have the potential to reduce suicides and suicide attempts.

For these reasons, **CHA requests your "YES" vote on AB 440.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Leah Barros", written in a cursive style.

Leah Barros  
Consulting Lobbyist, California Hospital Association

cc: The Honorable James C. Ramos  
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Allegra Kim, Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Justin Boman, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus