



April 2, 2025

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

SUBJECT: AB 440 (Ramos) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Bonta:

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 (ED) 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) on the review and deployment of suicide prevention measures on the state’s bridges.

The Office of Suicide Prevention serves as the designated state entity responsible for coordinating and aligning statewide suicide prevention efforts and resources through planning and collaboration across diverse partners and systems. Caltrans oversees more than 50,000 miles of California's highway and freeway lanes, including the safety and integrity of over 13,000 state highway bridges.

Caltrans does not currently have a statewide suicide prevention policy in place, despite the risk some state bridges and roadways present to at-risk individuals who are considering taking their own lives. To properly prevent suicide attempts and deaths on bridges along the state’s highway system, it is important to gather accurate data about where they have occurred. AB 440 would require the Office of Suicide Prevention to work with Caltrans to identify bridges and roadways that are considered suicide “hot spots” and provide recommendations to the Legislature on potential solutions to reduce the risk of future incidents.

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 Health Committee
Logan Hess, Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Justin Boman, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus