![California Hospital Association logo]

June 18, 2025

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
Chair, Senate Health Committee
1021 O St., Room 1200
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 440 (Ramos) — SUPPORT

Dear Senator Menjivar:

Every day, California hospital emergency departments treat patients experiencing suicidal thoughts or injuries from self-harm — in fact, 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 and 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.

Caltrans oversees more than 50,000 miles of California's highway and freeway lanes, including the safety and integrity of more than 13,000 state highway bridges. Caltrans does not currently have a statewide suicide prevention policy, despite the risk some state bridges and roadways present to 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 California 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,

Leah Barros
Consulting Lobbyist, California Hospital Association

cc: The Honorable James C. Ramos
         The Honorable Members of the Senate Health Committee
         Jen Flory, Principal Consultant, Senate Health Committee
         Tim Conaghan and Joe Parra, Senate Republican Caucus