



March 20, 2025

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

**SUBJECT: AB 512 (Harabedian) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Bonta:

When timely access to medically necessary care is delayed or denied, waiting patients suffer and medical outcomes are compromised. Too often, those harmful delays and denials are caused by the process known as prior authorization. Thoughtful and comprehensive prior authorization reform is necessary to ensure that California's residents can receive the care they need.

**This is why the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, supports Assembly Bill (AB) 512, which would shorten the timelines for prior authorization requests – from within five business days to no more than 48 hours for standard requests or from 72 hours to 24 hours for urgent requests from the plan's receipt of reasonable and necessary information.**

Physicians who have already dedicated time and resources to developing a treatment plan should be able to receive a timely response to their request for prior authorization, as should the patients they care for. Too often, patients are left in limbo, unable to proceed with care until a decision is made. For example, California hospitals report that some patients awaiting transfer to a skilled-nursing facility or other post-hospital setting may be delayed 72 hours or more as they await prior authorization. As a result, these patients remain in hospital beds, increasing costs and limiting access for others in need.

The provisions of AB 512 represent a basic yet critical step toward improvement of the prior authorization process by assuring time-sensitive treatments can proceed as needed, while still allowing sufficient time for review.

For these reasons, **CHA requests your "AYE" vote on AB 512.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kalyn Dean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kalyn Dean  
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable John Harabedian  
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Health Committee  
Riana King, Principal Consultant, Assembly Health Committee  
Justin Bowman, Health Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus