

March 19, 2025

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

Re: AB 627 (Stefani) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Bonta:

To sustain and expand access to high-quality health care services, health care providers sometimes rely on working capital bonds to help finance key aspects of their operations (e.g., salaries, benefits, and leases) and maintain sustainable cash flows. Unfortunately, state law currently restricts the California Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA) from issuing such bonds with terms beyond two years, not only limiting the bonds' use and utility, but also causing providers to look elsewhere for long-term working capital finance needs.

Assembly Bill (AB) 627 addresses this problem by allowing CHFFA to issue long-term working capital tax-exempt bonds to nonprofit health institutions. The bill enables CHFFA to serve more effectively as a one-stop shop for hospitals and other providers seeking both short- and long-term financing support. For these reasons, the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, supports AB 627.

This restriction does not exist for other financing programs in the California State Treasurer's Office, including, for example, the California Educational Facilities Authority, which supports the working capital needs of private nonprofit colleges and universities. There is no reason financing programs for health care should be treated differently.

Authorizing CHFFA to issue long-term working capital tax-exempt bonds would align it with other Treasurer's Office financing programs and benefit all participating hospitals, as well as the broader health care ecosystem.

For these reasons, CHA requests your "YES" vote on AB 627.

Sincerely,

Mark Farouk Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Catherine Stefani The Honorable Members of the Assembly Health Committee Lara Flynn, Chief Consultant, Assembly Health Committee Justin Boman, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

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Corporate members: Hospital Council – Northern and Central California, Hospital Association of Southern California, and Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties