



March 21, 2025

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

SUBJECT: SB 242 (Blakespear) — SUPPORT

Dear Senator Menjivar:

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) codified an essential principle — that people should not be denied health care coverage based on pre-existing conditions. Unfortunately, this is not the reality for individuals seeking help with their Medicare bills through supplemental Medicare coverage, known as Medigap. As a result, people who need the most care often face higher deductibles and copayments than others, causing them to skip medically necessary preventive care, thus placing their health at risk.

This is why the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, supports Senate Bill (SB) 242, which would prohibit using an individual’s medical history to make a coverage determination for those enrolled in Medigap. This practice has not been allowed in other health coverage markets since the passage of the ACA. In addition, the bill would create an annual open enrollment period at the beginning of each year for Medicare beneficiaries to enroll in Medigap, ensuring that Medicare beneficiaries have a reasonable opportunity to access this supplemental coverage. Ultimately, SB 242 would make Medicare coverage more meaningful, prevent inequitable cost-sharing burdens, and promote affordability for and improve the health of California’s seniors.

For these reasons, **CHA requests your “AYE” vote on SB 242.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Farouk", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Farouk,
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Catherine Blakespear
The Honorable Members of the Senate Health Committee
Teri Boughton, Principal Consultant Senate Health Committee
Joe Parra, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus