

May 27, 2025

CHA Position: **Vote YES on SB 530**

To: The Honorable Members of the California State Senate

From: Kalyn Dean, Vice President, State Advocacy

SB 530 (Richardson) — Support

Timely access to services in Medi-Cal managed care — the primary delivery system for most of the program's approximately 15 million enrollees — is paramount to ensuring that beneficiaries are able to fully access their health coverage. Despite this importance, the state's foundational standards for evaluating network adequacy and appointment wait times are set to expire at the end of this year.

That's why the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, supports Senate Bill (SB) 530. It would permanently extend these foundational timely access standards in Medi-Cal managed care, require plans to obtain approval for alternative access standards every two years, and improve the evaluation criteria and reporting associated with exemptions — thus strengthening oversight and transparency. The facts:

- Under current standards, all Medi-Cal plans must maintain networks that ensure their enrollees have timely access to medical care, such as being within 15 miles or a 30-minute drive from a hospital.
- The Legislature has renewed the Medi-Cal standards multiple times over the past eight years; allowing them to lapse could threaten patients' ability to receive timely and coordinated care from providers in their communities.
- The state has approved thousands of exemptions to these standards **without adequate transparency** into how plans' requests are being scrutinized or where approved exemptions may be negatively affecting access.

By eliminating the current sunset, SB 530 would ensure that the millions of patients who depend on Medi-Cal can continue to access the care they need and avoid straining an already overburdened system.

**For these reasons, CHA strongly urges your
YES vote on SB 530.**