



April 16, 2025

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

SUBJECT: SB 548 (Reyes) — SUPPORT

Dear Senator Menjivar:

Every day, hospitals witness the severe impact of alcohol- and drug-related overdoses across California, including deaths by the thousands. While the number of overdose deaths declined nationally in 2023 for the first time in five years, approximately 12,710 Californians died because of fentanyl and other overdose deaths that same year — an increase of more than 160% since 2017. California is experiencing an overdose crisis, and a comprehensive, goal-oriented approach is needed to address it.

This is why the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, supports Senate Bill (SB) 548, which would establish a statewide goal to reduce addiction-related deaths by 50% by 2031.

SB 548, also known as the Overdose Death and Addiction Reduction Act of 2025, would require the California Health and Human Services Agency to convene an advisory group and create a five-year plan for reducing alcohol- and drug-related addiction deaths. This bill would also bring leaders and experts together to review existing health plan requirements and data, identify opportunities that would improve access to care for substance use disorders, and make recommendations to save lives.

For these reasons, **CHA requests your “AYE” vote on SB 548.**

Sincerely,

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

Leah Barros
Consulting Lobbyist
California Hospital Association

cc: The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes
The Honorable Members of the Senate Health Committee
Teri Boughton, Principal Consultant, Senate Health Committee
Joe Parra, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus