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May X, 2025

Vote NO on SB 632

To: The Honorable Members of the Senate

From: Kalyn Dean, Vice President, State Advocacy

SB 632 (Arreguín) — Oppose

Hospitals unequivocally support and protect their employees — they simply could not fulfill their mission of care without healthy workers.

California's existing workers' compensation system is a long-standing and effective benefit that provides timely medical care and compensation to all California workers injured on the job. **Hospitals are proud of their track record of approving 90% of all workers' compensation claims — one of the highest rates among all sectors.** This is irrefutable proof that the system takes good care of its workers when they get sick or are injured on the job.

For these reasons, we are opposed to Senate Bill (SB) 632 (Arreguín, D-Berkeley), which would create the first-ever broad-based private-sector workers' compensation presumption targeting hospitals. The facts:

- No evidence has been provided to justify needing to create a private-sector workers' compensation presumption as proposed by SB 632.
- Historical data from the California Workers' Compensation Institute shows that for workers who file workers' compensation claims, health care employers have one of the lowest denial rates of any sector.
- SB 632 extends the statute of limitations for the rebuttable presumption injuries for up to three, five, or 10 years, depending on the illness, after employment ends — exposing hospitals to unlimited liability for years after employment has ended and for illnesses that may not have been work-related, but for which a hospital cannot rebut due to the passage of time.
- SB 632 will undeniably increase workers' compensation costs, which will directly and immediately increase the cost of health care at a time when affordability is a priority and hospitals are bracing for Medicare and Medicaid cuts.

The presumptions that SB 632 would create fail to balance what the system is designed to do with the impact on patients, health care workers, and hospitals — especially given the significant volatility and uncertainty around Medi-Cal financing.

For these reasons, we urge your NO vote on SB 632.