



June 23, 2025

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

SUBJECT: SB 669 (McGUIRE) — SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Bonta:

Many Californians live in areas where hospital labor and delivery (L&D) units are either no longer available or at significant risk of closure. These closures are driven by a combination of factors, including declining birth rates, workforce shortages, and ongoing hospital financial challenges. In areas without enough L&D units or none at all, the travel required to access maternity services can lead to worse patient outcomes. An expectant mother traveling as few as an additional six miles faces an 11% increase in negative outcomes and a 15% greater likelihood that her baby will be admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit — and those numbers worsen the farther a patient must travel.

That's why the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, supports Senate Bill (SB) 669. This bill would require the California Department of Public Health to establish a five-year pilot program allowing qualified critical access hospitals, as well as individual and small system rural hospitals to operate standby perinatal units — a pragmatic, patient-centered solution to a growing public health crisis.

SB 669 would ensure that trained staff and appropriate equipment are available on standby for urgent obstetric needs. The bill is aligned with established safety standards and includes provisions to ensure qualified personnel, appropriate protocols, and emergency transfer procedures are in place. SB 669's approach would balance safety with flexibility, empowering hospitals to better serve their communities — especially in areas where a full perinatal unit is not feasible but emergency readiness is essential.

For these reasons, **CHA urges your “YES” vote on SB 669.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Gonzalez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Vanessa Gonzalez
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Mike McGuire
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Health Committee
Scott Bain, Principal Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Justin Boman, Health Policy Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus