



June 24, 2025

The Honorable Lori Wilson
Chair, Assembly Committee on Transportation
1021 O Street, Room 1100
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 800 (Reyes) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Wilson:

Every day, California hospital emergency departments (EDs) treat patients experiencing suicidal thoughts or suffering from self-inflicted injuries. Self-harm is now the third leading cause of injury-related ED visits.

Given the growing number of individuals at risk of suicide, the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, supports efforts to improve safety measures and protect lives. This support includes Senate Bill (SB) 800, which would require the California Department of Transportation to establish a pilot program that would install suicide deterrents on five freeway overpasses in San Bernardino County.

Suicide rates among youth have increased by 62% between 2007 and 2021¹ and, in more recent years, hospital EDs have seen a 51% increase in suspected suicide attempts among adolescent girls and a 4% increase among adolescent boys.² Roadways and bridges can be “hot spots” for self-harm; jumping from a great height is one the two most frequently used suicide methods in the United States.

SB 800 would help curb these tragedies by ensuring that certain San Bernardino County freeway overpasses are outfitted with suicide deterrents, such as prevention signage and physical barriers. **CHA requests your “YES” vote on SB 800.**

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 Assembly Committee on Transportation
Aron Judd Mendiola, Principal Consultant, Assembly Committee on Transportation
Ted Morely, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

¹ Curtin, Sally C.; Garnett, Matthew F. (2023). Suicide and Homicide Death Rates Among Youth and Young Adults Aged 10–24: United States, 2001–2021. In *NCHS Data Brief* (No. 471). National Center for Health Statistics.

² Yard, E., Radhakrishnan, L., Ballesteros, M. F., Sheppard, M., Gates, A., Stein, Z., Hartnett, K., Kite-Powell, A., Rodgers, L., Adjemian, J., Ehlman, D. C., Holland, K., Idaikkadar, N., Ivey-Stephenson, A., Martinez, P., Law, R., & Stone, D. M. (2021). Emergency department visits for suspected suicide attempts among persons aged 12–25 years before and during the COVID-19 pandemic — United States, January 2019–May 2021. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 70, 888–894.