



April 16, 2026

The Honorable Thomas Umberg
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
1021 O St., Suite 3240
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 915 (Menjivar) – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Senator Umberg:

Caring for the sick and healing the injured — without regard to a patient’s ethnicity, national origin, or citizenship status — is the mission of all hospitals. There is a special trust between patients and health care providers, and no one should ever be afraid to seek care for themselves or their loved ones because they fear being deported. This is why the California Hospital Association (CHA) supported last year’s Senate Bill (SB) 81 (Arreguín, D-Oakland), which strengthened patient protections against unlawful immigration actions. It also ensured that hospitals remain focused on their core mission, while preserving their ability to develop internal policies that foster a safe environment for workers, patients, and visitors.

While hospitals are committed to providing safe, timely, and equitable care to all — regardless of their circumstances — SB 915 (Menjivar, D-Van Nuys) would impose requirements that risk fundamentally changing the role of hospitals and their workers by positioning them as intermediaries between federal immigration enforcement officers and patients in their custody.

For these reasons, CHA, on behalf of nearly 400 hospitals and health systems, must oppose SB 915 unless it is amended.

SB 915 would require hospital workers to verify and document the identity and agency of any federal immigration enforcement officer accompanying a person in custody who requires care, request such officers leave patient care areas, and document instances of noncompliance. These requirements place hospital staff in the difficult and inappropriate position of managing interactions with law enforcement, potentially escalating conflicts and diverting attention from critical patient care.

The prohibition on the use of “blackout policies” further compounds these concerns. Hospitals have a duty to protect patient privacy and safety in sensitive situations, including those involving individuals in custody. Eliminating this option for a specific subset of patients could expose both patients and staff to unnecessary risk and limit hospitals’ ability to respond appropriately to complex security and privacy considerations.

Lastly, SB 915 would require hospitals to apply policies and procedures to patients accompanied by

federal immigration enforcement officers that differ from those applied to any other patient, even patients in law enforcement custody. This would create inconsistent standards that are contrary to a hospital's mission of providing equitable care to all.

Hospitals and health care workers should not be placed in the role of arbitrating interactions between patients and law enforcement or subject to requirements that create operational inconsistencies or compromise patient care. The bill also risks placing hospitals in an untenable position—where efforts to comply may lead to conflict or safety risks, while inability to comply due to actions outside their control could result in penalties. Clear liability protections are essential to ensure providers acting in good faith to balance patient care, legal obligations, and safety are not held responsible for circumstances beyond their control.

For these reasons, CHA is opposed to SB 915 unless it is amended.

Sincerely,



Vanessa Gonzalez
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
The Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
Ian Dougherty, Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee
Morgan Branch, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus