TEMPLATE LETTER – Please place on hospital letterhead and add hospital-specific details

May XX, 2022

The Honorable [FIRST AND LAST NAME]

State Capitol, Room [0000]

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: SB 1339 (Pan) — SUPPORT IF AMENDED**

Dear Senator LAST NAME:

I am writing on behalf of (insert hospital name) to support Senate Bill (SB) 1339, if amended, to include a policy solution for the looming 2030 building standards mandate that threatens access to care in communities across California.

Prior to the pandemic, it would have been a challenge for (insert hospital name) to meet the 2030 seismic requirements. Today, after two years of a pandemic that has pushed our hospital to the financial brink, meeting these requirements will be more than a challenge, it will be impossible.

Provide a brief summary of the financial impact of COVID-19 and its impact on care in the communities served by your hospital(s).

Our hospitals have worked hard and invested billions to meet 2020 seismic standards so that hospital buildings can withstand an earthquake. They are now amongthe safest in the communities we serve. The work we have done (insert a summary of retrofitting and/or evaluation work to bring buildings to their current SPC-2 levels or higher on your campus) ensures our hospital is well prepared to respond to earthquakes and any other potential disasters and can provide continuous care to our patients.

While SB 1339 identifies some of the key information that should drive the policy discussion on updating the 2030 standards, it must be augmented to offer a path forward that preserves equitable care in all of California’s communities.

Insert specific details on how the 2030 seismic requirements will affect your hospital and why they need to be modernized.

We support the California Hospital Association’s (CHA’s) amendments to this bill to include a policy solution to the 2030 seismic requirements. Specifically, CHA has proposed to require all hospitals to ensure emergency services are fully functional after a major earthquake. Refocusing the 2030 standards on emergency services (and excluding, for example, buildings that house dietary services) will preserve health care delivery that would be in jeopardy if the law is not modified. As California’s hospitals recover from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, CHA has also proposed an additional seven years for hospitals to meet these requirements.

Unless solutions are offered, hospital services will be threatened for people living in [NAME THREE PROMINENT COMMUNITIES SERVED] — as the result for a hospital that fails to attain 2030 compliance is closure. Insert specifics about what a reduction in services or closure would mean for your community. These amendments are vital to the future of hospitals and the Legislature has an important opportunity to modernize an outdated law and ensure that all Californians have access to care when they need it.

Now, in this next phase of the pandemic, the Legislature has a choice: maintain decades-old 2030

requirements that would require all hospital buildings to have every service available at all times or modernize the 2030 standards to support investments in a health care system that delivers high-quality, equitable care for all.

For these reasons, (insert hospital name) is support, if amended, on SB 1339 and respectfully requests your “YES” vote on this bill if our concerns are addressed.

Sincerely,

Name

Title