



**CALIFORNIA
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION**

*Providing Leadership in
Health Policy and Advocacy*

September 20, 2019

TO: CHA Members
FROM: Carmela Coyle, President & CEO
SUBJECT: Weekly Advocacy Review

Member Advocacy Call
September 24, 8:30 a.m.
Dial-In: (800) 882-3610 Passcode: 5010912#

*Please **mute** your phone once you
have been connected to the call by entering 61#.
Enter 60# to un-mute your phone for comments/questions.*

FEDERAL

Federal Update (O'Rourke)

The House of Representatives passed a measure to continue funding for the federal government through Nov. 21. The Senate is expected to consider the legislation in the next few days. Without this measure, the federal government would face another shutdown. Of note to hospitals, the legislation includes a first quarter delay in the scheduled cuts to the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital program. CHA has advocated that the cuts be eliminated completely, and this short-term delay is important progress.

For additional information, contact Anne O'Rourke at (202) 488-4494 or aorourke@calhospital.org.

Regulatory Update (Keefe)

CHA issued its [draft comment letter](#) on the calendar year 2020 outpatient prospective payment system proposed rule issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). CHA also prepared a [CEO letter template](#) that members can use to support CHA's opposition to several issues, including the area wage index and price transparency proposals outlined in our letter.

Member input is critical, as these proposals inappropriately and unnecessarily harm California's hospitals. Comments are due to CMS by 2 p.m. (PT) on September 27.

For additional information, contact Alyssa Keefe at (202) 488-4688 or akeefe@calhospital.org.

STATE

Legislative Update (Scott)

CHA continues to focus its advocacy efforts on the Governor's office, as hundreds of bills await final action. The Governor has until midnight on October 13 to sign, veto, or allow bills to become law without his signature. Actions will be listed [on CHA's website](#) as they become available.

Key bill signed to date:

The Governor signed **Assembly Bill 5 (Gonzalez, D-San Diego) this week**. CHA had an oppose, unless amended position on the bill, as it threatens hospitals' use of independent contractors. Amendments were secured to exempt physicians and certain professional services. However, hospitals may still be impeded from contracting with other individual health care professionals, as well as short- and long-term staffing businesses. This is sweeping legislation that affects virtually all business sectors in California, and we will join with them to consider legislative and legal remedies in 2020 and beyond.