**Place on hospital letterhead and email a copy of your letter to Dawn Vicari, CHA legislative assistant, at** **dvicari@calhospital.org****.**

DATE

The Honorable Jim Wood, D.D.S., Chair

Assembly Health Committee

State Capitol, Room 6005

Sacramento, CA 95608

**SUBJECT: SB 758 (Portantino) – SUPPORT**

Dear Dr. Wood:

(Insert hospital name) has continued to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. When COVID-19 hit, our hospital responded quickly, converting physical space, suspending many procedures and services, purchasing personal protective equipment for employees and staff, hiring additional staff, and more.

This response was unprecedented, and it has come at a high cost for all hospitals at the front lines of the COVID-19 fight. Kaufman Hall, a national, independent consulting firm with extensive health care finance expertise, [has found](https://www.calhospital.org/sites/main/files/kh_covid_ca_financial_impact_6.1.20_final_0.pdf) that the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to lead to long-term changes to financial stability and care delivery in California hospitals. For our hospital this has meant incredible and continued revenue loss, while managing increased expenses.

However, the next seismic mandate looms. Our hospital has met the first requirement to withstand a major earthquake — the highest level of safety possible. Now that our building is safe for patients and employees, we must focus on the 2030 requirement to be *operational* after a major earthquake. Understanding the challenge our hospital is currently facing, **our hospital supports** **SB 758, which would extend the deadline for the 2030 mandate to 2037 and create a stakeholder advisory committee to examine how California’s health care delivery system prepares and responds to disasters of all kinds.**

A recent [RAND Corporation report](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR3059.html) analyzed hospital seismic mandate costs to meet the 2030 seismic requirement. The price tag is estimated to be more than $100 billion but may even be higher after factoring in financing and other costs. As the study notes, hospitals bear the entire financial burden for the required upgrades. For our hospital, the costs are significant (please include estimated costs if available).

Planning for massive infrastructure projects of this size must start now. At this time when hospitals’ budgets have been crippled by the pandemic, an extension of the mandate is critical given the extensive work and expense that need to be considered. More importantly, we strongly support a state-led advisory committee to re-examine the state’s response to all disasters, including a seismic event. We have learned many incredible lessons as the state is facing the current pandemic, as well as from other disasters over the past few years.

(Insert hospital name) requests your support for SB 758 in Assembly Health Committee. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this request. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[Your name and contact information]

Cc: Senator Anthony Portantino

 Members, Assembly Health Committee

 Lara Flynn, Consultant, Assembly Health Committee

 Joe Shinstock, Consultant, Republican Caucus