



Support Disaster Preparedness Modernization

MODERNIZE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

California hospitals are already some of the safest buildings in the state. Today, more than 96% of all patient care buildings have met the state’s rigorous construction standards, meaning they will remain standing during a major earthquake. The remaining handful of buildings will meet this standard by no later than 2025. As a result of the decades of work and billions of dollars already spent to safeguard all hospital buildings in California, *patients and workers will be protected when the next earthquake strikes*.

We urge legislators to modernize hospital disaster preparedness. This plan will modernize existing state law by prioritizing critical health care resources most needed after an earthquake or any other type of disaster. The plan will continue to ensure all hospital buildings are structurally safe and able to withstand a major earthquake. It will require all hospital buildings that house emergency services to continue to operate after an earthquake — including ensuring the availability of the services and supplies associated with emergency care, pre- and post-surgery, diagnostic imaging, clinical lab, pharmacy, food, water, and more. Hospitals also will be required to invest in strengthening facilities that provide non-emergency services. The plan will provide hospitals with the additional time needed to meet these requirements.

By creating a network of hospitals with post-event emergency medical services throughout the state, California will be well-positioned to respond to a seismic event or any other disaster that comes our way. **For projects of this size, complexity, and cost, the entire project timeline — from planning and design to financing approvals and construction — is a decade long. This is a crisis facing hospitals now.**

ENHANCE POST-EVENT EMERGENCY SERVICES

Hospitals train constantly for disasters, including internal and external patient transfers, all with an intense focus on strategies to keep patients and workers safe. This proposal recognizes the existing planning and capability of every hospital to manage disaster response and focuses resources on the needs of their communities once a disaster strikes: the emergency room and the services needed to support emergency medical care.

Today, health care is delivered effectively at sites throughout California's communities, including outpatient clinics, physicians' offices, and increasingly through telehealth and home-based care. It's no longer about a single, massive, centralized building, but rather a greater focus on health care providers being prepared for disasters of all kinds.

PRESERVE ACCESS

Unless the Legislature acts to provide relief, there will be hospitals unable to comply with the state's outdated seismic laws and that ultimately will be forced to shutter. The law was passed nearly three decades ago based on that era's data and science. No community should lose its hospital because of an outdated law; it is time for the Legislature to revisit that law. Hospitals want to be able to comply, but if the standard is not achievable, hospitals' ability to keep their doors open is in jeopardy.

According to RAND, the 2030 requirement that hospital buildings be fully operational after a seismic event could cost hospitals well more than \$100 billion, without financing. When financing costs are included, the price tag could soar to more than \$200 billion.

Hospitals continue suffering losses from the pandemic, and it will take years to get back to "normal." Even with federal financial relief, California hospitals endured a net loss of more than \$8 billion last year, with projected losses of an additional \$2.2 billion in 2021, and no additional federal relief in sight.

Instead of using 1990s strategies based on old data and science, California lawmakers must modernize this law to reflect how health care is delivered in the 21st century.

California Hospital Association
California Children's Hospital Association
United Hospital Association
District Hospital Leadership Forum
Association of California Healthcare Districts
Private Essential Access Community Hospitals
Alliance of Catholic Health Care
California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
Sharp HealthCare
Mayers Memorial Hospital District
Tenet Healthcare Corporation
Cedars-Sinai
Stanford University
Providence St. Joseph Health
University of California
Good Samaritan Hospital
Los Robles Health System
Riverside Community Hospital
Regional Medical Center of San Jose

West Hills Hospital & Medical Center
Scripps Health (which has 5 hospitals)
MemorialCare (which has 4 hospitals)
Adventist Health (which has 20 hospitals)
Dignity Health (which has 34 hospitals)
Kindred Healthcare (which has 14 hospitals)
Beverly Hospital
Kentfield Hospital
Vibra Hospital of Northern California
El Camino Health
Community Medical Centers
Keck Medicine of USC
Valley Industry & Commerce Association
United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Business Council
San Pedro Chamber of Commerce
North Bay Leadership Council
Santa Rosa Metro Chambe
South Orange County Economic Coalition



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