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

DATE, 2022

The Honorable Anna Caballero

Senator, California State Senate

State Capitol Swing Space, Room 7620

Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: SB 1212 (Caballero) — SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Caballero:

HOSPITAL NAME supports your Senate Bill (SB) 1212 because it would require necessary transparency in the bills health care staffing agencies send to hospitals and prohibit sharp price increases during a state of emergency that are not supported by market demand.

During the pandemic, health care staffing agencies, which provide temporary workers to hospitals and clinics, have dramatically increased their prices, in some cases by 200%-400%. For most of the agencies, the higher prices are entirely due to the increased demand for workers coupled with the limited supply of health care professionals because of the COVID-19 pandemic. All parties have benefited from the arrangement: the temporary worker is paid market rate, the staffing agency profits, and the hospital has sufficient staff to care for patients.

However, hospitals throughout the state consistently report that some health care staffing agencies dramatically increased prices but then retained the increase as profit, depriving workers of the higher rates. Moreover, hospitals have reported time-sensitive, artificial increases in rates that are not supported by market demand. This price gouging jeopardizes patient care, limits nurses’ labor rights, and ultimately results in market dysfunction.

SB 1212 would provide necessary transparency in bills sent to hospitals by health care staffing agencies and ensure that hospitals know exactly what they are paying for. Additionally, SB 1212 would prevent price gouging in future health crises and natural disasters, and it will curb unscrupulous behavior by bad actors.

For these reasons, HOSPITAL NAME fully supports your SB 1212.

Sincerely,

Name

Title