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

DATE, 2022

The Honorable Richard Pan, MD

Chair, Senate Health Committee

1021 O St., Suite 7320

Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT:** **Senate Bill 958 (Limón and Portantino) — SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Pan:

HOSPITAL NAME supports Senate Bill (SB) 958, which would prevent health plans from mandating the use of third-party vendors for infused medications such as chemotherapy. While SB 958 would not outlaw this policy (referred to as “white bagging”), it would disallow this practice where there are concerns about patient safety or drug integrity.

HOSPITAL NAME is committed to the safe, timely delivery of life-saving medications for our patients. Unfortunately, white bagging practices prohibit health care providers from using in-stock medications that are infused or injected by doctors or nurses, instead requiring them to call a vendor contracted with the health plan to order each medication on a patient-by-patient basis.

This practice jeopardizes our patients’ health, safety, and well-being by restricting access to critical medications — and places the health plan and its third-party vendors between patients and providers. If the vendor is unable to deliver the medication, the patient must return for treatment on a different day. Delaying treatment may put the patient’s health at risk, can lead to patient distress, and may impact the patient’s overall treatment plan.

INSERT SPECIFIC PATIENT EXAMPLE HERE, IF AVAILABLE

Additionally, white bagging removes providers from the process of acquiring and managing medications, and instead places the responsibility with health plans and its vendors. This increases the opportunity for error — since the medications are not part of a hospital’s or physician office’s quality control protocols, the provider has no way of assuring drug integrity and quality control.

For these reasons, HOSPITAL NAME respectfully asks for your “AYE” vote on SB 958.

Sincerely,

Name

Title