



April 1, 2022

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez
California State Capitol, Room 2188
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SUPPORT AB 1721 (Rodriguez) – California Emergency Services Act: Emergency Medical Services Mutual Aid Program

Dear Assemblymember Rodriguez:

On behalf of the following organizations, Leading Age California (LAC), California Association of Health Facilities (CAHF), and California Hospital Association (CHA), we write in strong support of AB 1721. We represent diverse constituencies that advocate for older Californians and their families. California is a disaster-prone state that has faced 8 of the 10 most destructive fires in state history in the last 5 years. The track record is further complicated by other disasters, such as the Oroville Dam incident and the COVID-19 public health emergency, forcing long-term care facilities to take unprecedented actions to protect their residents and staff. These are only the most recent events, largely ignoring the looming threats of earthquakes, floods, aging infrastructure, man-made disasters, extreme heat, and drought conditions.

AB 1721, includes provisions to establish a local resiliency and mutual aid strategies between long term care facilities to for equipment, staffing, planning, training, and disaster exercises to support the senior living industry and emergency responders. The creation of a Long-Term Care Mutual Aid Program is critical to provide coordination between long term care facilities and local governments. A Long-Term Care Mutual Aid Program will help facilitate emergency evacuation, surge capacity, and resources & assets to prepare these facilities for single facility/isolated incidents, county-wide events and state-wide disasters.

AB 1721 is needed to strengthen California's Emergency Preparedness System and target efforts towards protecting some of our most vulnerable populations. We strongly support AB 1721.

LeadingAge California

Ca. Association of Health Facilities

Ca. Hospital Association