



March 28, 2022

The Honorable Reggie Jones-Sawyer
Chair, Assembly Public Safety
1021 O Street, Room 5220
Sacramento, California 95814

SUBJECT: AB 2461 (Rodriguez) – Support

Dear Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer:

The Calif Hospital Assoc is pleased to support AB 2461 (Rodriguez), which sets forth a process for hospitals and law enforcement to work together to identify patients who are unable to identify themselves or their family members because of their medical condition.

Hospitals try their best to identify patients who are brought to the hospital unconscious or with dementia or another medical or psychiatric condition that makes them unable to identify themselves or their family members. We know that patients want their family by their side in the hospital, and family members may be needed to make healthcare decisions for the patient when the patient can't make those decisions for themselves. We also know that families are distraught when a loved one is missing.

Hospital social workers search patients' purses, wallets, cell phones or other personal belongings to try to identify patients. However, sometimes patients don't have any personal belongings with them, or what they have isn't sufficient to contact family members. In those cases, law enforcement agencies may have helpful tools or information that hospitals can't themselves access. This bill would require hospitals to notify law enforcement when the hospital can't identify a patient and would require law enforcement to use those tools and information to help.

It's important to understand that AB 2461 would not apply when a patient chooses not to identify themselves or their family. It applies only when the patient is unable to do so because of a medical condition (for example, dementia) or a psychiatric condition (for example, catatonia).

For these reasons, CHA is pleased to support this AB 2461.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Austin Scott', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathryn Austin Scott
Senior Vice President, State Advocacy and Relations

cc: The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Public Safety
Andrew Ironside, Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Gary Olson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus