



May 25, 2022

The Honorable Richard Pan, MD
Chair, Senate Health Committee
1021 O St., Suite 7320
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 1394 (Irwin) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Pan:

The California Hospital Association (CHA) recognizes that suicide is preventable and supports efforts to effectively identify at-risk people and intervene as early as possible. Mental health needs across the nation have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency. While the most recent report on suicide rates in the U.S. found they are generally on the decline, it also noted alarming increases among adults ages 25-34, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Black Americans, and Hispanic Americans.

Research shows that screening hospital patients for suicide risk can identify patients in need and provide opportunities to offer support. As Amended on May 24, 2022, Assembly Bill (AB) 1394 would require general acute care hospitals in California to screen all patients over the age of 12 for suicide risk, as well as follow national protocols and screening tools such as those recommended by the Joint Commission regarding screening for suicidal ideation and behavior risk when a patient exhibits any sign of being at imminent risk for suicidal ideation and behavior.

We urge you to support AB 1394 when it comes before your committee. If you have any questions, please contact me at Leah@LeahBarros.com or (916) 521-6878.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Leah Barros", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Leah Barros
Consulting Lobbyist, California Hospital Association

cc: The Honorable Jacqui Irwin
Members of the Senate Health Committee
Reyes Diaz, Consultant, Senate Health Committee
Joe Parra, Consultant, Senate Republic Caucus