TEMPLATE LETTER – Please place on letterhead and add details specific to your organization

 DATE, 2022

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman

Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and Human Services

1021 O St., Suite 8530

Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula, MD

Chair, Assembly Budget Committee, Subcommittee No. 1 on Health and Human Services

1021 O St., Room 6240

Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT:**  **Governor’s Budget Proposal on Community Benefits — OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Eggman and Assembly Member Arambula:

ORGANIZATION NAME has grave concerns and opposes the governor’s budget proposal to require nonprofit hospitals to direct 25% of their community benefits dollars to community-based organizations that address the social determinants of health. This proposal will jeopardize existing community benefits programs and will likely not have the intended effect of improving health outcomes.

Setting a percentage for any type of activity undermines the community health needs assessment process required of hospitals by both federal and state law. We have been part of the community health needs assessment process to identify pressing care needs and work in partnership with HOSPITAL NAME(S) to address critical health and human services needs. The governor’s proposal threatens to undo our collaboration with HOSPITAL NAME(S) to improve health care-related outcomes in our communities.

In CITY NAME, we partner with hospitals on the following programs and services that could be significantly jeopardized by this proposal:

* INSERT PROJECTS/FUNDING HERE

In addition, the shifts we all made during the pandemic are proof-positive that hospitals need flexibility to respond to ongoing and emergent community needs. For instance, in response to those needs as impacted by COVID-19, our work — and that of other community-based organizations — with local hospitals resulted in:

(LIST EXAMPLES – HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS)

* Expanded mobile health care services
* Community-based testing and vaccination sites
* Donations of personal protective equipment that enabled us to continue serving vulnerable communities

Setting a specific benchmark fails to account for the nimbleness required of our partnerships with hospitals.

For these reasons, ORGANIZATION NAME has sincere concerns with this proposal and urges you to reject it.

Sincerely,

Name

Title