



DISTRICT HOSPITAL LEADERSHIP FORUM



May 19, 2022

## Position: **Vote YES on SB 958**

**To:** The Honorable Members of the California State Senate

**From:** Kathryn Austin Scott, CHA Senior Vice President, State Relations and Advocacy

Californians deserve to be able to count on the safe and timely delivery of life-saving medications when they need them. As a broad coalition of health care providers and consumer advocates, we are concerned that a new practice in medication delivery — known as “white bagging” — jeopardizes patient health, safety, and well-being by placing health plans and their third-party vendors between patients and providers.

White bagging policies require medications to be shipped to providers on a patient-by-patient basis in place of using medications that providers have available on-site. The practice frequently results in delays in care, waste from mishandled medication, and new costs for providers who must manage duplicative processes for receiving and administering medications.

SB 958 (Limón) would provide a framework for situations in which white bagging is appropriate, with the chief objective of ensuring patient safety and medication integrity. Rather than prohibiting white bagging outright, SB 958 would prevent health plans from **mandating** the use of this policy, except in cases where the practice is consistent with proper patient care.

SB 958 would protect California's patients by preventing delayed or suboptimal care, patient distress, and unnecessary hospital admissions by ensuring that patients have timely access to safe medications.

**For these reasons, our organizations strongly urge your AYE vote on SB 958.**

**American Academy of Pediatrics California**

**America's Physician Groups**

**Association of California Healthcare Districts**

**California Children's Hospital Association**

**California Council for the Advancement of Pharmacy**

**California Hospital Association**

**California Life Sciences**

**Cedars Sinai**

**Children Now**

**Children's Specialty Care Coalition**

**District Hospital Leadership Forum**

**The US Oncology Network**