



July 12, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 1394 (Irwin) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

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.

For these reasons, CHA requests your signature on AB 1394. 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
Tam Ma, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor