



March 30, 2023

The Honorable Tasha Boerner Horvath
Chair, Assembly Communications & Conveyance Committee
1020 N St., Room 169
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 296 (Rodriguez) — Support

Dear Assembly Member Boerner Horvath:

Helping Californians understand how to best use the health care resources available to them is an important step toward reducing strain on an already stressed health care system. **The California Hospital Association, on behalf of more than 400 member hospitals and health systems, supports Assembly Bill (AB) 296, which would establish the 911 Public Education Campaign.**

A campaign to educate the public on when to call 911 would promote proper use of the emergency services delivery system and reduce the number of non-emergency calls. **This is crucial because patient volume in hospital emergency departments has increased more than 40% in the past seven years — and as many as three-fourths of patients who arrive by ambulance have relatively minor needs.**

In addition, the 911 Public Education Campaign should be expanded to include information on the 988 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline. The 988 lifeline is a critical resource to mitigate behavioral health crises. This would further ensure Californians are equipped with accurate, comprehensive information on resources available to them.

We thank Assembly Member Rodriguez for his leadership in addressing the proper use of 911 for emergency care, and respectfully request your “AYE” vote on AB 296. If you have any questions, please contact me at vgonzalez@calhospital.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Gonzalez".

Vanessa Gonzalez,
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Communications & Conveyance Committee
Emilio Perez, Chief Consultant, Assembly Communications & Conveyance Committee
Daniel Ballon, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus