April 24, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 487 (Atkins) — SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino:

California's hospitals are committed to protecting and expanding access to health care for all who need it. The COVID-19 pandemic placed unprecedented strain on the state's health care workforce, necessitating new investments and other policy changes to ensure Californians can access care. Now, policy changes outside of California are placing access to reproductive health care services at risk and threatening providers who act within their scope of practice.

This is why the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, supports Senate Bill (SB) 487. It would protect patients from out-of-state efforts aimed at limiting access to reproductive health care services and ensure that providers can continue to deliver these services.

By preventing health plans and insurers, as well as the Medi-Cal program, from penalizing providers that deliver reproductive health care services consistent with California law, SB 487 would protect Californians' access to this care. Implementing the bill would come at little to no cost for the state, and ultimately could help the state avoid any downstream costs that inevitably arise when access to preventive health care is curtailed.

For these reasons, CHA requests your "AYE" vote on SB 487.

Sincerely,

Rony Berdugo
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Toni Atkins
The Honorable Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Agnes Lee, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Joe Parra, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus