



April 19, 2023

The Honorable Susan Eggman
Chair, Senate Health Committee
1021 O St., Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 784 (Becker) — SUPPORT

Dear Senator Eggman:

Successfully recruiting and retaining primary care physicians is critical to improving the health of Californians living in rural and underserved areas. There is inequitable access by region in California, with some areas experiencing shortages of primary care and other specialty physicians, based on population.

The California Hospital Association supports Senate Bill (SB) 784, which would help address the physician shortage by authorizing health care districts, as well as nonprofit corporations with a health care district as its sole corporate member, that own or control a general acute care hospital to directly employ physicians and surgeons.

This concept has a successful track record. Assembly Bill 2024, passed in 2016, created a seven-year exemption to California's ban on the corporate practice of medicine for the state's 36 critical access hospitals, allowing many to successfully hire and retain physicians.

For these reasons, CHA and its more than 400 hospital and health system members strongly support SB 784.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rony Berdugo".

Rony Berdugo
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Josh Becker
The Honorable Members of the Senate Health Committee
Vince Marchand, Principal Consultant, Senate Health Committee
Kayla Williams, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus