



May 22, 2023

The Honorable Richard Roth  
Chair, Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee  
1021 O St., Room 33  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: AB 1731 (Santiago) – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Roth:

Emergency departments (EDs) across the state are experiencing unprecedented increases in patients seeking emergency care, making physicians' time more scarce and more valuable. According to a 2018 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study, ED visits for suspected opioid overdose have risen 30% nationwide. As instances of opioid overdose and ED patient volume are steadily increasing, California must support ED physicians by empowering them to be able to treat patients in a timely manner.

**For these reasons, the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of its more than 400 member hospitals and health systems, supports Assembly Bill 1731, which would remove the requirement for a health care practitioner to consult the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) database before prescribing more than a seven-day supply of buprenorphine in an ED setting.**

CHA supports removing unnecessary processes that keep emergency physicians from treating their patients as quickly as possible. Providing a buprenorphine exemption from CURES consult requirements for health care practitioners in the ED will save time and will enable patients who require care for opioid overdose or addiction to receive timely treatment.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [vgonzalez@calhospital.org](mailto:vgonzalez@calhospital.org).

Sincerely,

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

Vanessa Gonzalez,  
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Miguel Santiago  
The Honorable Members of the Senate Business and Professions Committee  
Sarah Mason, Chief Consultant, Senate Business and Professions Committee  
Kayla Williams, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus