



June 05, 2023

The Honorable Jim Wood, DDS  
Chair, Assembly Health Committee  
1020 N Street Room 390  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 641 (Roth) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

Hospitals in California are on the front line of the overdose epidemic and are deeply committed to preventing overdose deaths. **For these reasons, the California Hospital Association, on behalf of its more than 400 member hospitals and health systems, is in support of Senate Bill 641. This bill would ensure the availability of all dosage strengths of opioid antagonists, such as naloxone, through the Naloxone Distribution Project.**

Naloxone is a lifesaving medication that can reverse an opioid overdose, including overdose from heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid medications. According to provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 71,000 people died from synthetic opioid-related drug overdoses in the United States in 2021.

The California Hospital Association fully supports efforts to reduce mortality associated with opioid overdose in a constantly changing environment. By ensuring the availability of all U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved formulations of any opioid antagonist for emergency treatment, we continue to preserve the shared goal of combatting opioid overdose-related deaths throughout California.

We look forward to continued collaboration on this important issue. 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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vanessa Gonzalez,  
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Richard Roth  
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Health Committee  
Judith Babcock, Consultant, Assembly Health Committee  
Gino Folchi, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus