



July 27, 2023

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

SUBJECT: AB 1085 (Maienschein) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino:

California's hospitals see firsthand the devastating impact that a lack of stable housing can have on individuals and communities, as they are often the first place individuals experiencing homelessness turn to when in crisis.

On behalf of our more than 400 hospital and health system members, the California Hospital Association (CHA) is writing to express support for Assembly Bill (AB) 1085, which would take steps toward the creation of a housing support services benefit in Medi-Cal. Adding this benefit would be a major step toward increasing access to these services and improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations. It would help reduce health care utilization by addressing one of the major root causes of many health conditions. By directly confronting housing as a social determinant of health, AB 1085 could even generate savings in Medi-Cal by diverting utilization for high-cost services such as emergency department visits and inpatient stays.

For these reasons, CHA requests your "AYE" vote on AB 1085.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Farouk", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Farouk,
Vice President, State Advocacy

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