



September 19, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 1007 (Ortega) – Request for Veto

Dear Governor Newsom:

For California’s hospitals, the health and safety of patients and employees are paramount. Hospitals unequivocally support protecting their employees, and they simply could not fulfill their mission of care without healthy workers. Unfortunately, Assembly Bill (AB) 1007, which requires the use of a plume scavenging system, creates an unworkable standard that will not improve employee health and safety.

Specifically:

- 1) The definition of a “plume scavenging system” requires that the system either neutralizes or captures all plume, **yet no existing plume system captures or neutralizes all plume.**
- 2) While the language limits the plume neutralization “to the extent technologically feasible,” it is unclear who or how an entity would determine what is technologically feasible.
- 3) AB 1007 requires Cal/OSHA to develop a regulatory framework to address plume and then *requires* that the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (OSHSB) adopt the regulations from the division. Under existing law, the OSHSB the Board can be compelled to consider the draft before it, but it cannot be compelled to approve.
- 4) AB 1007 contradicts existing plume standards developed by international health and safety organizations.

For these reasons, on behalf of our more than 400 hospital and health system members, the California Hospital Association (CHA) must respectfully request your veto of AB 1007.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions on CHA’s position on AB 1007, please contact me at rberdugo@calhospital.org.

Sincerely,



Rony Berdugo
California Hospital Association
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc The Honorable Liz Ortega
Mary Hernandez, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor