



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 12 2024

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1432 without my signature.

This bill would authorize any hospital to apply to the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) for a five-year extension of the 2030 seismic safety compliance deadline, extending full compliance up to January 1, 2035.

The magnitude 6.6 Sylmar Earthquake in 1971 caused the collapse of several hospitals, rendering many incapable of providing emergency care. As a result, the Legislature passed the Alfred E. Alquist Hospital Seismic Safety Act in 1972, requiring new hospitals to be constructed to ensure they can provide emergency services after a disaster. Later in 1994, this requirement was extended to include pre-1973 hospitals. As such, California hospitals have known for 30 years that they face a 2030 deadline to be fully compliant.

All Californians depend on the hospitals in their communities for reliable, high-quality health care services and emergency response in times of need. While most hospitals have taken the necessary steps to prevent full collapse in the event of an earthquake, many still have not met the higher standard of guaranteeing the continued ability to provide services. This is critically important. In the aftermath of an earthquake, not only would these hospitals be unable to provide emergency care to victims, but they would also require emergency



response efforts to be diverted to rapidly evacuate and transfer patients to other facilities.

The question is not if California will experience a significant earthquake, it's when. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, Northern California faces a 72 percent chance of a magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake by 2043. Any extensions that may be considered to the 2030 deadline must balance the increased risk for the patients, hardworking hospital staff and emergency responders, and people living in that community. Providing an extended deadline should be limited in scope, granted only on a case-by-case basis to hospitals with demonstrated need and a clear path to compliance, and in combination with strong accountability and enforcement mechanisms. This bill's proposal to allow any hospital a five-year compliance extension is too long. I encourage any hospitals at risk of non-compliance with the 2030 deadline to prioritize remaining work.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom