



March 22, 2024

The Honorable Mia Bonta
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
1020 N St., Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 2175 (Lowenthal) – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Assembly Member Bonta:

There is no greater priority for California hospitals than providing the right care, at the right time, in the right setting. Patients with a medical emergency are often brought to the nearest emergency department, though that particular hospital may not have the specialized care to meet that patient's needs. When that happens, the patient must be transferred to a hospital that has the appropriate specialist and other needed resources.

AB 2175 would require hospitals to report all specialties listed on the hospital's "call panel" (the roster of on-call physicians) to the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), which would create a searchable database. The California Hospital Association (CHA) agrees with the author's and sponsors' intent to create a resource for emergency departments and emergency department physicians to ascertain which receiving hospital might be most appropriate for a particular patient. However, CHA does not believe the bill as currently written delivers the most efficient and useful means to achieve this goal.

This is why the California Hospital Association, on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, is opposed unless amended to AB 2175 (Lowenthal).

Currently, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issues each hospital a license that delineates every specialty and supplemental service it offers. In addition, hospitals annually provide to HCAI an inventory of all the services they provide on HCAI's Form 7401. CHA and the sponsors have been exploring whether the currently reported information could be used by HCAI to create the database, rather than having hospitals submit additional, duplicative information each year.

CHA shares the goal of the author and sponsors to ensure that patients are transferred to an appropriate care setting as quickly as possible. However, hospitals should not be required to provide duplicative information to state agencies. We appreciate the ongoing discussions with the author's office and the bill sponsors to address concerns and look forward to collaborating on an effective, efficient solution.

For these reasons, CHA is opposed unless amended to AB 2175.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Gonzalez

Vanessa Gonzalez
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Josh Lowenthal
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Health Committee
Lara Flynn, Consultant Assembly Health Committee
Justin Boman, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus