



March 22, 2024

The Honorable Richard Roth
Chair, Senate Health Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1119 (Newman) - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Roth:

California hospitals have spent the last decade retrofitting their buildings to prevent collapse after a major earthquake. However, the deadlines for meeting seismic requirements are rigid and require statutory change to adjust.

For these reasons, the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospital and health system members supports Senate Bill (SB) 1119 (Newman).

This bill will authorize case-specific extensions of the first seismic compliance deadline mandated by Assembly Bill 2190 (Reyes, 2018) for three Providence hospitals. Specifically, SB 1119 would authorize extensions of two additional years for Providence St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton and Providence St. Joseph Hospital - Eureka, and an extension of one year for Providence Cedars-Sinai Tarzana Medical Center.

While nearly all hospital buildings have met the first requirement — to withstand an earthquake — additional flexibility is critical for a handful of communities with hospitals still working hard to meet this requirement.

The three hospitals included in this bill will meet the requirements but need additional time to do so. They have experienced issues and delays beyond their control. While current state law allows flexibility on compliance milestones, it is inflexible when it comes to the final compliance deadline —forcing hospital closure should the deadline not be met. This legislation is needed so these three hospitals can continue operating while still making progress on their buildings ahead of the final deadline.

We support this legislation because it is critical to maintaining access to care in these communities. This legislation is needed so that Providence St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton, Providence St. Joseph Hospital – Eureka, and Providence Cedars-Sinai Tarzana Medical Center in Tarzana can

maintain critical access to care while making progress toward the respective deadlines outlined in the legislation. For these reasons, CHA respectfully requests your “AYE” vote on SB 1119.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Austin Scott
Senior Vice President, State Relations and Advocacy

Cc: The Honorable Josh Newman
The Honorable Members of the Senate Health Committee
Vincent Marchand, Consultant, Senate Health Committee
Margarita Niemann, Senate Health Committee
Joe Parra, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Tim Conaghan, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus