



April 15, 2024

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1020 O St., Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 2175 (Lowenthal) – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Assembly Member Wicks:

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.

Assembly Bill (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 CHA, on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, is opposed unless amended to AB 2175 (Lowenthal, D-Long Beach).

Currently, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issues each hospital a license that delineates every specialty and supplemental service it offers; this includes 27 different clinical areas, including cardiovascular surgery, pediatric care and ICU/NICU to name a few. In addition, hospitals annually provide to HCAI an inventory of all the services they provide on HCAI's Form 7401. HCAI's database contains 14 different categories and 106 sub-categories detailing the level of services provided by every hospital in the state.

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.

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

Sincerely,



Vanessa Gonzalez
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Josh Lowenthal
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Allegra Kim, Consultant Assembly Appropriations Committee
Joe Shinstock, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus