

April 29, 2024

## Position: **Vote NO on SB 1300**

**To:** The Honorable Members of the California State Senate

**From:** Vanessa Gonzalez, Vice President, State Advocacy

### **SB 1300 (Cortese) – OPPOSE**

Hospitals face many challenges that are forcing them to eliminate or reduce services just to keep their doors open. Unfortunately, Senate Bill (SB) 1300 does not address the underlying challenges that might force a hospital to make the difficult decision to reduce services. In fact, SB 1300 will likely make current problems even worse.

**For these reasons, the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, opposes SB 1300, which would place new requirements on hospitals that close inpatient psychiatric or labor and delivery units.**

- Hospitals currently provide a 90-day public notice and a 90-day notification to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). It is unclear how an additional 30 days of notice would mitigate the effects of service closure or prevent the closure from occurring.
- Extending the public notice requirements will exacerbate the situation and speed up closures as health care providers and staff leave their jobs after learning that a service is closing. Hospitals already experience this challenge with the 90-day notification requirement; service lines often operate at reduced capacity than initially expected or close sooner than 90 days due to staff shortages caused by departures.
- The bill requires hospitals to submit duplicative information about every patient treated by the hospital over the past five years — data that hospitals *already* report to the Department of Health Care Access and Information, and which is already publicly available.

SB 1300 does not improve access to care and would worsen the situation for hospitals working to avoid service closures.

**For these reasons, CHA urges your NO vote on SB 1300**