



April 18, 2024

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
Chair, Senate Local Government Committee
State Capitol, Room 407
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 1439 (Ashby): Surplus Land Act — SUPPORT

Dear Senator Durazo:

As California’s hospitals navigate financial challenges and work to not just preserve — but also improve — access to care, it is critical that they have the means to act quickly when opportunities to better serve their communities arise. One such opportunity is the ability to repurpose government-owned surplus land for critical health care infrastructure. However, the process of transferring land from local agencies to health care providers is often delayed due to the many procedural steps and restrictions local and state agencies must complete in order to dispose of their surplus land. **Senate Bill (SB) 1439 (Ashby, D-Sacramento) would streamline this process by expanding the legal definition of “exempt surplus land” to include land intended for the development of health facilities. The California Hospital Association, on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, is proud to support this bill.**

Current law under Section 54221 of the Government Code establishes a framework for disposing of surplus land by local agencies across California. The code also outlines specific exemptions to this framework, including housing developments, waste disposal or wastewater treatment plants, wireless facilities or utility sites, and certain commercial or industrial uses. Extending the exemption to include health facility development will expedite land transfers, improving access to care by ensuring that hospitals and health systems can readily adapt to their communities’ growing needs.

SB 1439 is an important step toward promoting vital health care infrastructure development in California and will improve patients’ access to care across the state. For these reasons, CHA respectfully requests your “YES” vote on SB 1439.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Gonzalez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vanessa Gonzalez
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Angelique Ashby
The Honorable Members of the Senate Local Government Committee
Anton Favorini-Csorba, Senate Local Government Committee
Ryan Eisberg, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus