



May 7, 2024

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O St., Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 2200 (Kalra) — Oppose

Dear Assembly Member Wicks:

California's hospitals are committed to ensuring access to high-quality and equitable health care for all. For this reason, hospitals remain enthusiastic supporters and partners in the comprehensive implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the expansion of Medi-Cal coverage to Californians regardless of their immigration status, and efforts to improve access to a full range of behavioral health services. Unfortunately, Assembly Bill (AB) 2200 (Kalra, D-San Jose) would place this progress at risk.

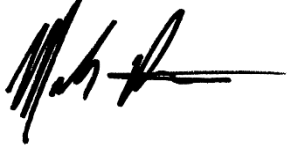
For this reason, the California Hospital Association, on behalf of more than 400 hospital and health system members, must oppose AB 2200.

AB 2200 would create a statewide single-payer health care program costing California more than \$500 billion annually, twice the level of current state spending, all while the state grapples with a cumulative projected deficit of more than \$100 billion over the next several years. It would require unprecedented tax increases that Californians simply cannot afford. The immense costs associated with transitioning to, and maintaining, such a system could jeopardize the fiscal stability of California and compromise health care services, threatening access to care for 39 million Californians.

The program would face fiscal pressures to keep costs low while overpromising benefits. The result would be longer appointment wait times, the rationing of necessary treatments, and the stifling of patient choice.

California's hospitals recognize that shortcomings in access and affordability remain as part of the health care system. While AB 2200 does not reflect the right approach, California's hospitals look forward to collaborating with the Legislature and governor to develop solutions that constructively and meaningfully enhance health care access and outcomes for all Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Farouk', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Farouk
Vice President, State Advocacy

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