



June 27, 2024

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

**SUBJECT: SB 1180 (Ashby) – SUPPORT**

California's hospital emergency departments (EDs) are committed to providing the right care, at the right time, in the right setting for all patients. An important component of providing that care is the use of community paramedicine programs, triage-to-alternate-destination programs, and mobile integrated health programs.

**For these reasons, the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, supports Senate Bill (SB) 1180 (Ashby, D-Sacramento).**

Hospitals continue to see an increase in the number of patients experiencing addictions and mental health-related emergencies being transported by ambulances to their EDs. This is occurring even though these settings have repeatedly been identified as problematic and challenging for people with mental health and addiction needs. EDs were designed and are appropriate for physical health and trauma emergencies, they are not suitable for many with mental health and addiction-related illnesses.

This growing utilization and the limited resources in EDs for this population have resulted in 'overcrowding' where the demands of patients cannot be met within reasonable timeframes while the needs of those with acute, physical health issues are being negatively impacted.

SB 1180 will facilitate transportation to non-medicalized settings, outside of a hospital, with professionals trained to provide supportive mental health care and substance use disorders community-based treatment. Furthermore, SB 1180 will improve patient autonomy and options for care and improve the means for addressing patients' social determinants of health.

For these reasons, CHA respectfully requests your "AYE" vote on SB 1180 and thanks the author for her leadership on this important issue.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [vgonzalez@calhospital.org](mailto:vgonzalez@calhospital.org).

Sincerely,

*Vanessa Gonzalez*

Vanessa Gonzalez  
Vice President, State Advocacy

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