



June 14, 2024

The Honorable Mia Bonta
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
1020 N Street, Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 1432 (Caballero) - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Bonta:

California hospitals are among the safest buildings in the communities they serve. After more than two decades of work and billions of dollars spent, nearly all hospitals will be able to withstand a major earthquake. Now, hospitals must comply with a different standard by 2030 that requires them to be fully operational after a major earthquake **or close their doors to patient care.**

While hospitals are working to comply with this requirement, many will not meet the 2030 deadline. Therefore, the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, requests your support of Senate Bill (SB) 1432 (Caballero, D-Merced), which would extend the deadline for the 2030 mandate and require the state to analyze and report to the Legislature on the mandate's impact on access to health care in communities across the state.

Specifically, the bill:

- Provides all hospitals with an initial three-year extension to 2033, upon submission of a seismic compliance plan and Non-Structural Performance Evaluation report to the Department of Health Access and Information (HCAI)
- Provides up to an additional five-year extension, at the discretion of HCAI, depending on hospitals' submission of information regarding the complexity of a construction project, financial capability to support seismic compliance, and/or the impact on access to care in the community
- Requires that to obtain an extension beyond the base three years, hospitals must meet planning, development, and construction milestones
- Mandates important public disclosure requirements, increasing transparency for state and local government as well as interested stakeholders
- Requires all hospitals to strengthen their disaster plans to ensure patients continue to receive the care they need during and after a disaster, and workers have a clear picture of the patient care plan following an earthquake

In addition, SB 1432 seeks greater partnership between hospitals and the state to comply with the law. Understanding the significant impact that construction would have on access to hospital care will be critical. This proposal would require HCAI's Office of Statewide Hospital Planning and Development to:

- Provide technical assistance to hospitals to assist in the development of construction plans
- Convene community stakeholders and report findings to the Legislature to understand the impact of seismic-related construction on hospital services and patient access to care

Extending this deadline would ensure that seismic compliance can be approached in a systematic way that preserves access to care. A transparent and comprehensive understanding of the scope, scale, and cost of seismic compliance is essential for the state to support its work to ensure safe, operational hospitals, to minimize disruption of patient care for all Californians, and to prevent the mandatory closure of hospitals on Jan. 1, 2030.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns at (916) 812-7406 or kscott@calhospital.org.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Scott
Senior Vice President, Advocacy
California Hospital Association

cc: The Honorable Anna Caballero
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Health Committee
Lara Flynn, Chief Consultant Assembly Health Committee
Justin Boman, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus