



Health Care



June 19, 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, on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, the California Hospital Association (CHA), along with those represented on this letter, request 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

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 also 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](mailto:kscott@calhospital.org).

Sincerely,

Adventist Health  
Alliance of Catholic Health Care  
Association of California Healthcare Districts  
California Association of Public Hospitals & Health Systems  
California Children's Hospital Association  
California Hospital Association  
Cedars-Sinai  
Dinity Health  
District Hospital Leadership Forum  
El Camino Health  
Good Samaritan Hospital  
Kindred  
Los Robles Health System  
Mayers Memorial Hospital District  
MemorialCare  
Modoc Medical Center  
Private Essential Access Community Hospitals  
Riverside Community Hospital  
Scripps  
Sharp  
Stanford Children's Health  
Stanford Health Care  
Southwest Health:  
- Inland Valley  
- Palmdale  
- Rancho Springs  
- Corona  
- Temecula  
Sutter Health  
Tahoe Forest Health System  
Tenet Health  
United Hospital Association (UHA)

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