



June 24, 2024

The Honorable Christopher Ward
Chair, Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
1020 N Street, Room 124
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 1439 (Ashby) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Ward:

As California’s hospitals navigate financial challenges and work to preserve and 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 many procedural steps and restrictions local and state agencies must complete to transfer their surplus land.

This is why the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, is proud to support Senate Bill (SB) 1439 (Ashby, D-Sacramento). The legislation would create an exemption in the Surplus Land Act for health care facility development, specifically for Sutter Health in Sacramento, CA, allowing them to construct a state-of-the-art cancer center on public land owned by Regional Transit.

Cancer is the leading cause of death in California, with an estimated 189,000 new cases and 61,000 deaths reported every year. According to a study from University of California, Davis, cancer mortality in Sacramento County is higher than the state average. There is a great disparity in access to critical, lifesaving care, especially for those who have Medi-Cal or Medicare. As a longtime partner of Sacramento’s community clinics, Sutter Health will provide lifesaving treatment through this cancer center to patients from the county’s most vulnerable communities.

SB 1439 offers a critical solution for streamlining the process of developing a much-needed health facility in Sacramento. Accessible and well-equipped medical facilities can help reduce overall health care costs by providing preventive care, early diagnosis, and timely treatment for patients.

For these reasons, CHA respectfully requests your “YES” vote on SB 1439.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Gonzalez

Vanessa Gonzalez

Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Angelique Ashby
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
Dori Ganetsos, Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
William Weber, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus