



July 16, 2024

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 2115 (Haney) — SUPPORT

Dear Senator Caballero:

Every day, hospitals witness the severe impact of drug overdoses, which are now at record highs in California. Hospitals support policies and approaches to reverse this troubling trend.

The California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, supports Assembly Bill (AB) 2115 (Haney, D-San Francisco), which would expand efforts to prevent overdose deaths by increasing access to methadone.

Methadone is a gold standard medical treatment and the most well-studied pharmacotherapy for opioid use disorder (OUD). Making methadone more accessible reduces overdose mortality, increases treatment engagement, and reduces harm related to injection drug use. Unfortunately, people with an OUD often encounter many obstacles when trying to access methadone.

At the federal level, the Drug Enforcement Agency recently authorized clinics to dispense 72 hours of methadone to a patient during the referral and enrollment process for a methadone clinic (opioid treatment program). This extended dispensing authority provides methadone access while individuals are awaiting enrollment in a methadone clinic, such as during weekends and evenings. Unfortunately, current California law does not fully align with this new authority. AB 2115 would address this issue by updating state law to allow clinics to dispense 72 hours of methadone during the referral and enrollment process for a methadone clinic. Improving access to methadone reduces opioid use and overdose risk.

For these reasons, CHA supports AB 2115.

I can be reached at Leah@LeahBarros.com or (916) 521-6878 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Leah Barros", written in a cursive style.

Leah Barros
Contract Lobbyist, California Hospital Association

cc: The Honorable Matt Haney
The Honorable Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Agnes Lee, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Joe Parra and Tim Conaghan, Consultants, Senate Republican Caucus