



August 26, 2024

The Honorable Laura Friedman
State Capitol, Room 5150
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 2297 (Friedman) – Neutral

Dear Assemblymember Friedman:

California hospitals are proud to provide more than \$8.8 billion per year in charity care and discounted care to low-income residents. For many, hospital charity care or discounted care is the only way they can access high-quality health care services. California has been a leader in adopting requirements to protect low-income, uninsured, or underinsured residents from potentially devastating medical bills.

Assembly Bill (AB) 2297, as amended on August 23, would refine California's Hospital Fair Pricing Policies Law to further protect these patients. The California Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the productive discussions with your office and sponsors, as well as the most recent amendments to the bill, to ease the financial and emotional strain on patients who struggle to afford the health care they need.

For these reasons, CHA, on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, is neutral on AB 2297.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Gonzalez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vanessa Gonzalez
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Members of California State Senate
Vince Marchand, Principal Consultant, Senate Health Committee
Tim Conaghan, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus