



August 28, 2024

The Honorable Dave Cortese
State Capitol, Room 6630
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 1300 (Cortese) – Neutral

Dear Senator Cortese:

There is no greater priority for California's hospitals than caring for their communities and ensuring access to high-quality health care. However, hospitals are facing many challenges that are forcing them to eliminate or reduce services just to keep their doors open.

Senate Bill (SB) 1300 expands existing public notice requirements from 90 days to 120 days when a hospital plans to close either its inpatient psychiatric or maternity services. As amended on August 20, SB 1300 now requires hospitals to hold at least one public hearing within 60 days of providing this public notice. We remain concerned that earlier public notice and a public hearing will not address the underlying factors leading to a service closure, nor prevent the closure from occurring. Nevertheless, we appreciate the August 20 amendments to remove proposed hospital reporting requirements on the cost and service impacts to the county since that information would best be provided by the counties themselves.

For these reasons, the California Hospital Association, on behalf of more than 400 hospital and health system members, is neutral on SB 1300.

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 the California State Legislature
Vince Marchand, Principal Consultant, Senate Health Committee
Lara Flynn, Consultant Assembly Health Committee
Justin Boman, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Jessica Cruz, Chief Executive Officer, NAMI California