



Sept. 9, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 98 (J. Carrillo; Reyes) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of its more than 400 hospital and health system members, the California Hospital Association (CHA) is writing to respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill (AB) 98 (J. Carrillo; Reyes). This bill would establish minimum warehouse standards that would ensure the loading dock of a warehouse would be at least 300-500 feet, depending on various factors, from the property line of “sensitive receptors.” This includes hospitals and the patients they treat from surrounding residential communities.

California’s hospitals recognize the need to maintain an efficient logistics network and an economy that creates jobs as many hospitals utilize these facilities for the storage of medical supplies including personal protective equipment. Unfortunately, without appropriate guardrails, warehouse developments are being constructed in and around residential communities, leading to well-documented negative health impacts for the people that live there. Warehouses with loading docks increase traffic from diesel trucks leading to increased nitrogen dioxide levels, which impacts the large racial and ethnic minority populations often located near these facilities.¹

CHA supports this reasonable approach that will protect patients, health care workers, and the neighborhoods near hospitals from unmitigated exposure to diesel particulate pollution. Furthermore, the provisions of AB 98 that require thoughtful implementation of truck routes to avoid sensitive receptors will ensure that patients will have unobstructed access to the care they need, including life-saving emergency care.

CHA believes that efforts to lower air pollution near sensitive receptors and thereby reduce adverse health impacts may lead to cost savings to the state in treating Medi-Cal enrollees with health issues exacerbated by logistics-related pollution.

AB 98 is a reasonable and thoughtful approach to a complex issue that will protect public health and ensure a resilient and responsible logistics economy.

¹ Warehousing Industry Increases Health-Harming Pollutants. Milken Institute School of Public Health. July 23, 2024

For these reasons, CHA respectfully requests your signature on AB 98.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Scott', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathryn Scott
Senior Vice President, State Relations and Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Juan Carrillo
The Honorable Eloise Reyes