

July 3, 2024

The Honorable Mia Bonta
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
1020 N St., Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 1432 (Caballero) – Support

Dear Assembly Member Bonta,

The Southern Orange County Economic Coalition knows firsthand the importance of our local hospitals when it comes to the community's health. California must do all it can to ensure patients have uninterrupted access to health care. Access to these vital services is at risk due to impending seismic deadlines. Nearly all hospitals throughout California have retrofitted or replaced buildings over the past decade to ensure they do not collapse in an earthquake, making patients and health care workers safer. Now, many of these same hospitals face a stringent 2030 operational standard, and hospitals that cannot meet the deadline will be required to close their doors. The Southern Orange County Economic Coalition is proud to support Senate Bill (SB) 1432 (Caballero, D-Merced), which would extend the deadline for the 2030 seismic mandate and require the state to analyze and report to the Legislature on **the mandate's impact on access throughout California's communities.**

We continue to partner and understand how important our local hospitals are to meet vital community health priorities. As our local hospitals prepare to meet the 2030 requirements to remain operational after an earthquake, it must have sufficient time to minimize the impact of construction on patient care.

We cannot afford to erode patient care in our community. Please consider the importance of maintaining access to hospital care throughout California.

For these reasons, The Southern Orange County Economic Coalition requests your "YES" vote on SB 1432.

Sincerely,



Victoria Hernandez
Executive Director
South Orange County Economic Coalition