



**CALIFORNIA
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION**

*Providing Leadership in
Health Policy and Advocacy*

April 19, 2013

The Honorable Curren Price, Jr.
Chair, Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development
State Capitol, Room 2059
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 491 (Hernandez) – SUPPORT IF AMENDED

Dear Senator Price:

The California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of our more than 400 member hospitals, is writing today in of SB 491 (Hernandez) which would remove the need for nurse practitioners (NPs) to work under standardized protocols and procedures or work in consultation with a physician or surgeon. CHA applauds the author's bold initiative to proactively address California's health care access needs. While CHA supports the conceptual premises outlined in the SB 491 provisions, we would like to work with the author and offer amendments to assure the public's safety and success of this sentinel legislation.

Nurse practitioners have been working within California hospitals and health systems for decades and have provided primary care and specialty care services within hospitals and their respective communities. California's hospitals and health systems are actively transforming their services in response to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and NPs represent a key component in the clinical delivery systems of the future.

There are numerous reasons California needs to take advantage of this reliable resource. The physician shortage, low physician participation in Medi-Cal and underserved needs, and unequivocal evidence of quality and satisfaction outcomes, are many of the reasons CHA supports this initiative and will actively work with the author to sharpen language and ensure a safety net of coordinated primary and preventive health care across the state.

Our proposed amendments would address specific issues relevant to a NPs performance of medical acts in an institutionalized setting. Nurse practitioners provide a wide array of services based on their education and training. They perform nursing acts and obtain additional education, training and certification to perform specific medical acts. Their medical acts are credentialed and privileged, and undergo respective peer review processes to assure patient quality and safety. CHA hospitals propose that additional amendments be placed in the present provisions to assure the NPs practice is firmly based within the boundaries of their education, training and certification, and, that quality and patient safety measures are firmly embedded in the provisions.

California hospitals have been leaders in transforming the delivery of health care and preparing for the realities of ACA. NPs full practice authority as conceptualized in SB 491 will be a pivotal component of our success in light of current and projected physician shortages, the much greater time and cost to train physicians, and expected increased in the demand for primary care. This is clearly a promising and rationale strategy for increasing the supply of primary care providers for California.

For this reason, CHA respectfully requests your “AYE” vote on SB 491, if amended.

Sincerely,

Connie Delgado
Deputy Chief Legislative Advocate

CD:dlv

cc: The Honorable Ed Hernandez, O.D.
The Honorable Members of Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development
Le Ondra Clark, consultant, Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development
Amber Alexander, consultant, Senate Republican Caucus

April 19, 2013

The Honorable Curren Price, Jr.
Chair, Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development
State Capitol, Room 2059
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 492 (Hernandez) – SUPPORT IF AMENDED

Dear Senator Price:

The California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of our more than 400 member hospitals, appreciates the opportunity to express our support for SB 492 (Hernandez) which would authorize a licensed optometrist to perform certain health-related services, including examining, preventing, diagnosing and treating conditions or disorders of the visual system. This opportunity represents a mechanism by which California can lead the nation in its efforts to support 4.7 million more Californians eligible for health insurance starting in 2014. CHA supports the overarching goal of health care access by utilizing providers to the full extent of their education and training. However, CHA and its member hospitals are committed to ensuring the appropriate safeguards and protections to guarantee the highest standards of quality and patient safety, and for this reason, would like to offer amendments to SB 492.

Doctors of optometry are extensively trained and educated according to national standards. Optometrists provide valuable services in the community and have an opportunity to be an integral component in the new clinical delivery systems of the future. For this reason, CHA supports these provisions and sees value in offering amendments to promote safe and effective care delivery by an optometrist. Our proposed amendments would address issues specifically related to the medical acts performed by an optometrist in the new provisions, and, assurance that appropriate safeguards and quality mechanisms are embedded in the SB 492 provisions to protect the public safety.

California hospitals have been leaders in transforming the delivery of health care and preparing for the realities of the Affordable Care Act. Utilizing health care providers to the extent of their education and training will be a pivotal component of our success. CHA is committed to working with the author to strengthen the intent of these provisions as this is clearly a promising and cogent strategy for increasing access to an integrated, team that is focused on the delivery of primary health care services to Californians.

For this reason, CHA respectfully requests your “AYE” vote on SB 492, if amended.

Sincerely,

Connie Delgado
Deputy Chief Legislative Advocate

CD:dlv

cc: The Honorable Ed Hernandez, O.D.
The Honorable Members of Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development

Le Ondra Clark, consultant, Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development
Amber Alexander, consultant, Senate Republican Caucus

April 19, 2013

The Honorable Curren Price, Jr.
Chair, Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development
State Capitol, Room 2059
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 493 (Hernandez) – SUPPORT IF AMENDED

Dear Senator Price:

The California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of our more than 400 member hospitals, appreciates the opportunity to express our support for SB 493 (Hernandez) which would expand the functions and setting where pharmacists are authorized to perform. This bill would declare pharmacists as health care providers, ensuring that health plans and other systems of care can include pharmacists as a member of the health care team. CHA is extremely supportive of efforts to include this invaluable provider in to the health care clinical delivery teams of the future. For this reason, CHA is committed to working with the author to provide amendments to address practice safeguards and quality mechanisms to ensure a safety net of coordinated care across the state.

CHA and its member hospitals have exceptional relationships with its pharmacists and rely heavily upon them to provide consultation, training and education to patients regarding medication therapy, disease management and prevention. They are an integral component to the inpatient interdisciplinary team and provide the highest quality of medication treatment interpretation, consultation and proactive prevention of medication errors. Their inpatient services are performed impeccably and their ability to perform in multiple settings is being realized in new environments daily. CHA supports all efforts to place pharmacists in multiple settings to deploy their critical expertise and to utilize them to the full extent of their education and training. In doing so, CHA would like to offer amendments that incorporate additional practice safeguards and quality mechanisms be embedded in the SB 493 provisions to protect public safety.

California hospitals have been leaders in transforming the delivery of healthcare and preparing for the realities of the Affordable Care Act. Utilizing health care providers to the extent of their education and training will be a pivotal component of our success. CHA is committed to working with the author to strengthen the intent of these provisions as this is clearly a promising and cogent strategy for increasing access to an integrated, team focused delivery of health care in California.

For this reason, CHA respectfully requests your “AYE” vote on SB 493, if amended.

Sincerely,

Connie Delgado
Deputy Chief Legislative Advocate

CD:dlv

cc: The Honorable Ed Hernandez, O.D.

The Honorable Members of Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development
Sarah Mason, consultant, Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development
Amber Alexander, consultant, Senate Republican Caucus