



April 5, 2023

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman
Chair, Senate Health Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 424 (Durazo) – SUPPORT

Dear Chairwoman Eggman,

On behalf of the members of the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (CAPH) and the millions of patients they serve, I am writing to express our support for SB 424, the California Children's Services (CCS) Modernization Act. SB 424 seeks to strengthen the current California Children's Services (CCS) program and make life-saving medical care for critically ill children accessible and affordable for more families.

California's 21 public health care systems are the core of the state's health care safety net, delivering high-quality care to more than 3.7 million patients annually, regardless of ability to pay or insurance status. Public health care systems include both county operated and -affiliated facilities, as well as the five University of California medical centers. Statewide, public health care systems employ 85,000 workers, provide nearly half of all hospital care to persons who are uninsured, and 40 percent of all hospital care to the Medi-Cal population in the communities they serve.

The CCS Program offers valuable support to public health care systems that provide care to children under 21 who have complex and/or life-threatening healthcare conditions like cancer, sickle cell disease, cystic fibrosis, and congenital heart disease. It also helps set quality standards for pediatric specialty care in California and provides access to nurse case managers to help families receive appropriate medical care and support services.

SB 424 makes important modifications to current law by codifying in statute the CCS medical conditions that are now only in regulation and requires the Department of Health Care Services to consider adding medical conditions based on recommendations by clinical experts. Additionally, this bill makes reimbursement sustainable for public health care systems by adjusting CCS physician rates for inflation and provides grants to hospitals and special care centers to ensure that access to critical services is maintained. CCS is a model program that has provided exemplary care to California's most at-risk children and youth for almost a century, but these updates are critically needed to ensure the program continues to thrive.

For these reasons, we support SB 424. If you have any questions regarding our position on this bill, please contact Kelly Brooks-Lindsey our Sacramento representative, at 916-272-0011. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erica Murray", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Erica Murray
President and CEO

cc: The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
The Honorable Members of the Senate Health Committee
Jen Flory, Principal Consultant, Senate Health Committee
Joe Parra, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Kelly Brooks-Lindsey, Hurst Brooks Espinosa