



July 5, 2023

The Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
1020 N Street, Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 819 (Eggman) – SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Wood,

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 819. This bill would clarify existing law that license-exempt clinics can operate intermittent sites or mobile health care units, without enrolling them in the Medi-Cal program as separate providers, which is the same standard for licensed community clinics.

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 provide 35 percent of all hospital care to the Medi-Cal population. They also provide nearly half of all hospital care to persons who are uninsured.

Many public health care systems operate an extensive network of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to meet the ambulatory care needs of their patients. As public entities, public health care system clinics are exempt from the State Department of Public Health licensing requirements that apply to private community clinics.

To help increase access to care, current law allows FQHCs to operate intermittent and mobile clinics without needing to separately enroll them into the Medi-Cal program. This bill would clarify existing law that clinics exempt from licensure are authorized to operate intermittent clinic sites or mobile health care units without enrolling them in the Medi-Cal program as a separate provider if they have notified the State Department of Health Care Services of the separate locations, premises, intermittent sites, or mobile health care units. SB 819 will ensure that public health care systems can continue to provide much needed health care services to our underserved communities.

For these reasons, we support SB 819. 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,

Christian Vierra

Christian Vierra
Associate Director of Government Affairs

cc: The Honorable Members of the Assembly Health Committee
Lisa Murawski, Principal Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Gino Folchi, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Kelly Brooks-Lindsey, Hurst Brooks Espinosa