



April 22, 2025

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Room 8140
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: OPPOSE – AB 339 (Ortega): Local public employee organizations: notice requirements

Dear Chair Wicks,

On behalf of the members of the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems and the millions of patients they serve, I am writing to voice our opposition to AB 339 (Ortega). This bill would impose sweeping changes and hurdles on local public entities, including public hospitals and health systems, which will interfere with timely execution of requests for proposals (RFPs), requests for quotes (RFQs), and revising job classifications or employment contract renewals and extensions.

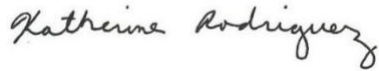
California's 17 public health care systems, which include county-operated and affiliated facilities and the five University of California health systems, are the core of the state's health care safety net. County public health care systems have a mission and mandate to deliver high-quality care to all, regardless of ability to pay or insurance status, across a comprehensive range of services. Despite representing only 6% of all hospitals statewide, public health care systems provide 35% of all Medi-Cal and uninsured hospital care. They contribute over \$4 billion annually to the Medi-Cal program, in place of the state's share, with many of their payments uniquely tied to quality and performance improvements. Additionally, these systems train a diverse and inclusive workforce, including nearly half of all new doctors in hospitals across the state.

California's public health care systems are fully unionized and represented by recognized employee organizations. AB 339 would subject nearly every contract to notice and meet and confer requirements, which could lead to significant delays in worker contract extensions, renewals, or special projects. With no clear parameters to help contain and reduce prolonged meet and confer requirements, AB 339 could lead to severe roadblocks when attempting to promote, recruit, or hire health care and hospital staff. Additionally, this legislation risks severely limiting public health care systems' ability to swiftly expand lines of service or upgrade facility structure without causing potential disruptions or delays to critical patient care.

For these reasons, we oppose AB 339 (Ortega) and would like to align our comments with the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and the League of California Cities (CalCities). 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 cursive script that reads "Katherine Rodriguez".

Katie Rodriguez
Vice President of Policy and Government Relations
California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems

CC: The Honorable Liz Ortega
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Irene Ho, Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Joe Shinstock, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus