



July 3, 2025

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
1021 O St., #7620
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT – AB 543 (González) – Medi-Cal: street medicine

Dear Chair Caballero,

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 support of AB 543 (González). This bill would seek to reduce barriers and improve Medi-Cal care coordination for people experiencing homelessness, if they are offered treatment through a street medicine provider.

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.

Over the last few years, the Legislature and Administration have worked to address gaps in our state's social safety net, and these efforts have largely focused on improving the breadth of services for individuals who are experiencing homelessness. AB 543 addresses systemic barriers which often pose challenges for timely health care coordination and treatment when offered directly in the community through street medicine providers.

Specifically, AB 543 would require Medi-Cal managed care plans, who opt to contract with street medicine providers, to create care coordination and referral processes when a provider, regardless of their network assignment, serves a Medi-Cal recipient who may be experiencing homelessness. Addressing these structural challenges has the potential to increase access to street medicine services which often serve as an entry point for the thousands of Californians in our state who are experiencing housing insecurity.

For these reasons, we support AB 543 (González). 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 Mark González
The Honorable Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Agnes Lee, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Tim Conaghan, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Joe Parra, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus