



April 3, 2026

The Honorable Nick Schultz
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee
1021 O St., #5150
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: OPPOSE – AB 1922 (Lowenthal): restraint of incarcerated persons
As amended on March 26, 2026**

Dear Chair Schultz:

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 express our respectful opposition of AB 1922 (Lowenthal) due to significant concerns regarding provider, staff, and patient safety.

California's 17 public hospital 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.

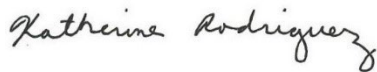
CAPH values the importance of preserving patient dignity and creating respectful, humane treatment conditions for all individuals. However, AB 1922 seeks to severely limit and, in some cases, prohibit the use of mechanical restraints for all incarcerated patients, which is deeply troubling. Without appropriate safeguards, health care workers and staff may be exposed to completely preventable risks. The bill's provisions undermine carefully established safety protocols safeguarding the well-being of physicians, and staff—increasing the likelihood of harm and workplace injuries. The safety of our workers is of utmost importance. Any rise in workplace injury incidents carries significant financial consequences for our facilities, including workers' compensation costs, and the need for additional security and training requirements. These resources will place further strain on already limited public hospital funding; placing unnecessary pressures on our safety net at a time when we must navigate \$3.4 billion in annual losses due to H.R. 1 alone.

Our county-operated health systems often serve as the provider of first resort for incarcerated patients when local law enforcement officials seek to coordinate care for individuals detained in local jails. In many cases, incarcerated individuals are seen in outpatient settings and unlocked wards that are not designed as enclosed environments, but rather as open clinical spaces intended to facilitate access and efficiency of care. Requiring reductions in the use of restraints increases the likelihood of local law enforcement reliance to maintain a safe care environment. This shift risks creating more visible public safety officer footprints in otherwise open, community-based care settings. AB 1922 risks unintentionally causing other patients and their families to feel uneasy when seeking everyday preventative care.

Finally, AB 1922 blurs the distinct roles of law enforcement and health care providers. The bill places the responsibility of making public safety determinations about when to restrain an individual on health practitioners; these are decisions that are outside of their expertise and scope of practice. Expecting clinicians to assess security risks and determine when to apply restraints on an incarcerated patient diverts attention from patient care.

For these reasons, CAPH opposes AB 1922 (Lowenthal). If you have any questions regarding our position on this bill, please contact Kelly Brooks-Lindsey, at 916-272-0011. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Katie Rodriguez
Interim President & CEO
California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems

CC: The Honorable Josh Lowenthal
Members of the Assembly Public Safety Committee
Andrew Ironside, Chief Consultant, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Gary Olson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus