

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
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ALBANY, CA 94706
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April 17, 2017

The Honorable Dr. Ed Hernandez
Chair, Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 687 (Skinner) Save Our Emergency Rooms Act of 2017 - SUPPORT


Dear Senator Hernandez:

The City of Albany supports SB 687 (Skinner) which would establish the Save Our Emergency Rooms Act of 2016. This bill would expand the Attorney General's existing authority to oversee and consent to sales and transfers of nonprofit hospitals. The proposed legislation would give the Attorney General additional authority to review and consent to any transaction by a nonprofit health facility that would result in the reduction or elimination of emergency services.

Albany lacks any emergency room of its own and its residents must travel to nearby cities such as Berkeley and Richmond to obtain emergency room care. The recent closure of Doctor's (formerly Brookside) Hospital in Richmond, and the announced closure of Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley, are matters of profound concern. Nonprofit hospitals are exempted from taxation on the ground that their primary function is to serve the community rather than to generate profits. We believe a careful and impartial assessment is needed before a nonprofit hospital implements a closure that could have such a great potential negative impact on a community such as ours - and that the Attorney General's consent should be obtained in advance if nonprofit status is to be maintained after such a closure.

For the foregoing reasons the City of Albany supports SB 687; thank you for your consideration of this comment.

Sincerely,


Peggy McQuaid, Mayor
City of Albany

Cc: Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Health, fax 916.319.2197
Senator Nancy Skinner, senator.skinner@senate.ca.gov
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