



**CALIFORNIA
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION**

*Providing Leadership in
Health Policy and Advocacy*

June 19, 2018

Dear Member of the California Delegation:

The California Hospital Association, representing more than 400 hospitals and health systems across the state, urges your support for two critical bills that would address the opioid crisis and improve our ability as caregivers to ensure patients have access to the treatment they need.

First, we support H.R. 5797, which would allow states to provide Medicaid services to individuals with opioid use disorders in institutions for mental diseases (IMDs). Under current law, states are prohibited from receiving federal matching funds for Medicaid patients aged 21 through 64 who receive inpatient treatment in facilities qualified as IMDs, unless the IMD has fewer than 16 inpatient beds. In California, there are 23 hospitals (with a total of 644 beds) offering inpatient chemical dependency services. Nine of these facilities (376 beds) are currently excluded from providing services to the Medicaid population due to the IMD exclusion criteria.

H.R. 5797 would authorize federal Medicaid matching funds for IMDs to provide eligible recipients up to 30 days of inpatient opioid abuse treatment over a 12-month period, through the year 2023. Expanding IMD treatment options will help ensure a full continuum of care is available those battling addiction.

Second, CHA also supports H.R. 6082, the Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety Act. This bill would allow health care providers to share substance use disorder patient information with each other to provide safe, effective and high-quality patient care. Currently, federal privacy regulations do not sufficiently recognize the interrelationship of physical health and substance use disorders and inappropriately limit health care providers' access to critical information. Health care providers need to understand the overall picture of the patient they are treating to provide the best possible care. This bill would allow providers to share information with each other, as permitted under the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act, facilitating health integration and electronic information exchange while continuing to protect the privacy and confidentiality of patients seeking treatment for substance use disorders.

CHA is encouraged by Congress' work to address the opioid crisis. Expanding treatment options, including inpatient care, and giving health care providers vital information are critical steps toward ensuring both access and quality care is available to those who need help. **Please vote to support both H.R. 5797 and H.R. 6082.** Thank you for your support of California's hospitals and the patients they serve.

Sincerely,

Anne O'Rourke
Senior Vice President, Federal Relations