

Guillen, Dora

From: Andrew Dorville <adorville@calhospital.org>
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 11:05 AM
To: COB_Response
Cc: Adam Dorsey; Kathryn Scott
Subject: Support letter re item S9D
Attachments: CHA Letter_RE_CalOptima_103125_ds.pdf

Attention: This email originated from outside the County of Orange. Use caution when opening attachments or links.

Good morning,

Please find attached a letter of support for a proposed amendment to CalOptima Health's governing ordinance. Please contact Adam Dorsey at adorsey@calhospital.org if you have any questions.

Andrew Dorville

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October 31, 2025

Orange County Board of Supervisors
c/o Clerk of the Board
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: Support for Proposed Ordinance to Ensure Safety-Net Hospital Access and Strengthen CalOptima Accountability

Dear Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of nearly 400 hospitals, the California Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to express strong support for the county's proposed ordinance to amend the governing rules of the Orange County Health Authority (CalOptima). This ordinance is a vital step to preserve equitable access to hospital care for Orange County residents and those living nearby who rely on Medi-Cal for health coverage. Beyond protecting access for these residents, the ordinance will help ensure transparency, accountability, and fairness in CalOptima's contracting practices.

Protecting Access for Vulnerable Residents

Hospitals across the state are facing unprecedented challenges. Patient volumes remain at record highs — often exceeding those experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic — while hospitals grapple with significant financial strain. About half of the hospitals statewide are operating in deficit, even before they are hit by the impacts of the recently enacted One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which is projected to reduce federal Medicaid funding by as much as 30% over the next decade.

In this fragile environment, maintaining a comprehensive and stable Medi-Cal hospital network is essential to protect patients and sustain the local health care safety net. Excluding qualified hospitals that deliver life-saving emergency care from CalOptima's network disrupts care coordination and continuity, reduces access to emergency and inpatient services, and creates dangerous bottlenecks in an already overburdened system for all who need hospital care.

Why Supervisors' Action Is Necessary

The proposed county ordinance directly addresses these problems by:

- Requiring CalOptima to offer and maintain contracts with all qualified hospitals offering emergency and post-stabilization care
- Preventing arbitrary contract terminations by requiring formal board action and written notice to the county
- Ensuring transparency and accountability through strengthened oversight provisions

These updates reinforce the county's long-standing commitment to maintaining an equitable, locally governed Medi-Cal system that prioritizes patient access and community health — consistent with the state's quality and access goals and longstanding network adequacy standards.

Conclusion

Orange County's hospitals — large and small, public and private, community and teaching — serve as a unified safety net for more than 1 million Medi-Cal beneficiaries. At a time of rising need for critical health care services and declining resources, it is imperative that local hospitals have the opportunity to remain accessible to CalOptima members and provide the services they need and deserve.

CHA commends the Board of Supervisors for its leadership in advancing this important ordinance. We urge its adoption to preserve access to care for Orange County residents, ensure compliance with state requirements, and maintain the strength and integrity of the local hospital network.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to protecting access to care for patients across Orange County.

Sincerely,



Adam Dorsey
Group Vice President, Financial Policy
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