



March 18, 2024

The Honorable Richard Roth  
Chair, Senate Health Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 3310  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 1119 (Newman) SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Roth:

I am writing on behalf of the South Orange County Economic Coalition (SOCEC) Board of Directors to express our strong support for SB 1119 (Newman), which would authorize narrow, case-specific extensions of the seismic compliance deadlines mandated by AB 2190 (Reyes, 2018) for three Providence hospitals. Specifically, SB 1119 would authorize extensions of two additional years for Providence St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton and Providence St. Joseph Hospital - Eureka, and an extension of one additional year for Providence Cedars-Sinai Tarzana Medical Center.

As South Orange County's leading voice of business, SOCEC is the driving force advocating for a strong local economy. Our organization covers a region that creates more than \$25 billion in economic activity annually. Therefore, it is our responsibility to advocate on behalf of local businesses for policies that positively impact the market environment and contribute to the prosperity and economic growth of California residents.

The aforementioned hospitals covered in the bill contribute to the prosperity and well-being of California and its residents, serving as crucial components of its economy and healthcare system. Together, the hospitals employ thousands of Californians dedicated to providing quality care to those who are seriously injured or ill. However, the inability of hospital owners to meet the statutory deadlines for seismic upgrade, which is due to circumstances outside of the owners' control, risks their ability to operate and provide quality care to thousands who need it.

Failure to meet current seismic deadlines would result in the imposition of excessive fines and the revocation of a hospital license, both of which would negatively impact access to care, and in turn, the economic environment in California. Not only will these penalties impede upon the

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ability of hospital owners to provide care to those in critical communities, but it will jeopardize the employment of thousands of healthcare workers.

SOCEC is proud to support SB 1119 so that hospitals are afforded the ability to comply with seismic improvements while also ensuring continuous patient care at each facility in communities where that care is desperately needed. For these reasons, SOCEC respectfully requests your "AYE" vote on SB 1119.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Hernandez", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Victoria Hernandez

Executive Director

South Orange County Economic Coalition