



February 25, 2025

Orange County Board of Supervisors  
400 W. Civic Center Drive  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**SUBJECT: HASC System of Care Infrastructure**

Dear Chairman Doug Chaffee and Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors,

The South Orange County Economic Coalition recognizes the importance of streamlined healthcare and appropriate allocation of taxpayer funds to these initiatives. It is essential that taxes are allocated properly to ensure healthcare is accessible, cost efficient, and high-quality.

Serving the region since 1969, the Coalition has advocated for enhanced economic development, removal of barriers to business growth, and protection of South Orange County's world-class quality of life. With a proactive issue-based model, the Coalition identifies prevalent issues and aligns our advocacy actions accordingly.

In a recent report released by the Hospital Association of Orange County, critical gaps in the infrastructure of the Orange County healthcare system were highlighted. The system of care provided to Orange County Residents is inhibited by oversaturated emergency rooms and the overcrowding of inpatient beds. These issues are driven by barriers to referrals for care and lack of mental health facility and long-term care infrastructure. The report highlights the influx of ER visits that could be redirected to mental health facilities, as well as over 100 cases where county-covered patients were housed in hospital beds instead of a long-term care facility due to lack of access to skilled nursing facilities. The state reports large vacancies in unused facilities due the barriers imposed by referral limitations. The result is a convoluted system for patients to navigate, over-worked healthcare professionals, and high costs to taxpayers.

When accessing inefficiencies in these programs, HASC found that the annualized cost of the current system "results in an estimated \$18 million in losses to taxpayer-funded sources and \$10 million to the County's general fund." These inefficiencies diminish the quality of healthcare for Orange County residents and waste significant taxpayer resources.



We urge you to examine HASC's report and reevaluate the infrastructure of care to improve taxpayer costs and quality of care to your residents. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Hernandez".

Victoria Hernandez

Executive Director, South Orange County Economic Coalition