



ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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June 16, 2021

The Honorable Bill Dodd
State Capitol, Room 4032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Please Keep AB 1130 (Wood) in the Policy Committee Process.

The proposal to create an Office of Health Care Affordability should stay in the policy process, and Senators should be allowed to properly consider the policy rather than have it rushed through as part of the budget.

Dear Senator Dodd:

On behalf of the **Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association**, which represents over 5,000 physicians in the Bay Area, I am writing to urge you to keep AB 1130 (Wood) in the policy process rather than including the proposal in the budget. This proposal, which creates an Office of Health Care Affordability (OHCA) under the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, includes major policy changes and has far-reaching implications for the health care delivery system. If included in the budget rather than allowing the full policy process to be completed, the specifics of the proposal will not be fully vetted. Senators should be allowed to properly consider this policy and its implications.

As currently drafted, the proposal will create enormous bureaucratic complexities within the health care delivery system and is overly burdensome on physician practices. The bill will intensify the imbalances and inequities that already exist within the system and will increase consolidation, driving up costs. We ask that you recognize the value of investing additional time and expertise in the OHCA proposal by ensuring it receives a thorough vetting through the policy process.

The OHCA proposal has, thus far, only been reviewed by a policy committee in one house, as AB 1130 (Wood). There are currently attempts being made to pass this policy change in the less collaborative budget process. We believe that this policy change should be given adequate and appropriate consideration through the full policy process rather than the truncated budget process. Since the OHCA proposal has only had a single policy committee hearing in a single legislative house so far, it would be catastrophic to the practice of health care to simply include this language in the state budget without further review.

We respectfully urge you to keep the OHCA in the policy committee process. AB 1130 contains considerable policy changes and implications for the health care delivery system. As physicians, we ask that the bill be given appropriate and thorough consideration rather than being rushed through the budget process.

If you have any questions, please contact me or ACCMA Executive Director Joe Greaves at jgreaves@accma.org or by calling 510-654-5383. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Suparna Dutta, MD
ACCMA President