

March 19, 2024

Senator Josh Newman  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 6520  
Sacramento, CA 95824

RE: Support for SB 1119 – Hospitals, Seismic Compliance

Dear Senator Newman,

On behalf of the City of Eureka and the Eureka City Council, I write in support of SB 1119, which would meaningfully assist our community's local hospitals with existing seismic compliance regulations. Existing law establishes a program of seismic safety building standards for certain hospitals, and requires hospitals that are seeking an extension to apply to the Department of Health Care Access (DHCA), subject to certain exceptions.

Existing law also authorizes the DHCA to waive the requirements of the act for two San Jose hospitals, so long as the hospitals submit a plan for compliance by a specified date, and the DHCA accepts the plan based on it being feasible to complete and promoting public safety. If the DHCA accepts the plan, the hospitals report to the DHCA on its progress to timely complete the plan by specified dates. Existing law imposes penalties to a hospital that fails to meet its deadline.

This bill would add several hospitals, including Providence St. Joseph Hospital and Providence Eureka General Hospital in the City of Eureka, to the hospitals for which the DHCA may waive the requirements of the act. The bill would add additional dates to make progress reports to the DHCA.

In Humboldt County, where access to medical care is already limited, flexibility in implementing existing law is paramount. This remote community cannot afford to jeopardize the operational capabilities of its hospitals, essential for providing critical services.

For these reasons, the City of Eureka supports SB 1119. Thank you for considering our support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Kim Bergel  
Mayor  
City of Eureka

