

April 11, 2023

The Honorable Jim Wood  
Assembly Health Committee, Chair  
1020 O Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: AB 40 (Rodriguez), Oppose Unless Amended**

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

The Alliance of Catholic Health Care, which represents California's Catholic-affiliated health systems and hospitals, is writing to oppose AB 40 (Rodriguez) unless it is amended. While we are supportive of many of the bill's provisions, we are opposed to AB 40 unless it is amended to remove the statewide, 20-minute standard.

There is no greater priority for California's hospitals than the safety of our patients. This means making sure those with the greatest needs are treated first and treating all patients as quickly as possible. This arbitrary time limit puts patients at risk and would push our hospitals to prioritize those who arrive by ambulance, even if their condition is less serious than someone who was brought in by other means.

California's Catholic hospitals already use a clinically driven process to evaluate and triage patients to ensure that everyone who comes to our emergency department receives timely, appropriate care. Unfortunately, AB 40 does not take this into account, nor does it acknowledge the lack of services in the community available to safely discharge patients to lower-level care settings.

In addition, establishing an offload standard when there are no accurate, uniform, and audited data to track the time it takes to transfer care is premature. While AB 40 would require the development of an audit tool to improve data accuracy, this tool must be implemented prior to establishing a statewide offload standard.

The Alliance of Catholic Health Care and our members are eager to be a part of the solution to reduce ambulance patient offload delays and support many of the proposed initiatives in AB 40, but patient safety should not be sacrificed in any way to meet a statewide time constraint. Therefore, we must oppose AB 40 unless it is amended.

Sincerely,



Lori Cappello Dangberg  
Executive Vice President



*Representing California's Catholic  
Health Systems and Hospitals*