



October 9 2026

The Honorable Jesse Arreguín
Chair, Senate Committee on Business, Law, and Health
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 26 - Support If Amended

Dear Chairperson Arreguín and Senate Business, Law, and Health Committee members,

We are writing on behalf of the California Hospital Association to declare that our organization would proudly support this bill, if it is amended.

SB 26: Healthcare Access and Rural Program would establish Healthcare Access and Rural Program, or HARP, providing transportation access in rural and suburban communities as a partnership with District 16's existing Metro Micro program.

The bill outlines the following: HARP will provide transportation to hospitals, medical appointments, and other centers of medical specialty for people living in District 16's suburban and rural areas, decreasing the barrier to transportation and improving quality of life for residents within District 16, aiming to keep fares as low-cost as possible, especially for eligible students, the elderly, minors, those with disabilities, and low-income residents.

The California Hospital Association supports these measures, but would prefer an amendment to expand this bill to provide transportation and access to other areas of California facing poor healthcare access and transportation, such as Districts 1, 2, 4, 12, 17, and 19.

Furthermore, it would be greatly useful to incorporate HARP with California hospitals and health systems within these Districts, such as Adventist Health, Kaweah Health, Community Health System, Valley Children's Healthcare, and Kaiser Permanente.

However, providing funds to safety-net providers would prove more capable of serving the targeted demographics, such as United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley, Family HealthCare Network, or Clinica Sierra Vista.

This bill's verbiage should be changed to expand healthcare access coverage, not just serve District 16.

The California Hospital Association strongly urges you to amend and support SB 26.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Damien Purisima". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Damien Purisima (He/him) - Lobbyist
California Medical Association