



CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

October 9 2026

The Honorable Lola Smallwood-Cuevas
Chair, Senate Committee on Local Government and Labor
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 82 - Support If Amended

Dear Chairperson Smallwood-Cuevas and Senate Local Government and Labor Committee members,

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

SB 82: Farmworker Heat Safety and Small Farm Support Act would establish a preemptive measure for agricultural workers in temperatures exceeding 90°F.

The bill outlines the following: at temperatures at or above 90°F and below 100°F, workers would be entitled to a 10-minute paid break, at temperatures at or above 100°F and below 108°F, workers would be entitled to a 15-minute paid break, and at temperatures at or above 108°F, agricultural work would be prohibited unless the employer provides an air-conditioned shelter and the work is required to save a perishable crop.

Dr. Sagar Parajuli, a geography lecturer at San Diego State University, writes in a 2025 study titled “Heat-related rest-break recommendations for farmworkers in California based on wet-bulb globe temperature,” regarding the length of rest per work hour to prevent heat stress, specifically “recommend[ing] rest breaks to protect farmworkers from heat stress range [to be] from 2 to 32 min per work-hour between April and August.”

Parajuli mentions that prolonged heat exposure for workers has a positive correlation with heat-related death, stating that “in environments with high heat exposure, such as agriculture, prolonged work without sufficient hydration and rest increases the risk of heat-related illnesses.”

The California Medical Association supports these measures, but would prefer an amendment to include other trades and jobs that face extreme heat like agricultural workers.

Workers performing physically strenuous occupations, especially in outdoor settings, such as construction workers, road and highway crews, roofers, landscapers and ground maintenance crews, utility and telecommunication workers, oil field workers, gas field workers, solar field

workers, warehouse and yard workers, wildland fire support personnel, and more, also face the extreme heat that agricultural workers face.

This bill's verbiage should be changed to avoid exclusion of workers outside of agriculture, as the risk is not limited to just them.

The California Medical Association strongly urges you to amend and support SB 82.

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