



Officers

Muntu Davis, MD, MPH
President
Alameda County

April 11, 2018

Ken Cutler, MD, MPH
President-Elect
Nevada County

The Honorable Mike Gipson
State Capitol, Room 3173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Wilma Wooten, MD, MPH
Past President
San Diego County

RE: HOAC Supports Assembly Bill 1795

Nicole Quick, MD, MPH
Treasurer
Yuba Country

Dear Assemblymember Gipson:

Eric Handler, MD, MPH
Secretary
Orange County

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers of California's sixty-one city and county health jurisdictions, supports your AB 1795. This bill would authorize local emergency medical services (EMS) agencies to include, as part of an EMS plan, procedures to transport patients experiencing a non-emergent mental health crisis or inebriation to a behavioral health facility or sobering center.

Directors at Large

Joseph Iser, MD, DrPH, MSc
Yolo County (retired)

AB 1795 will grant localities and their EMS agencies greater flexibility in tailoring EMS response protocols to fit the unique needs of the communities they serve. Current law requires paramedics responding to emergency calls to transport patients to emergency departments (EDs) or acute care hospitals for treatment. However, certain patients with mental health issues may receive more specialized and timely treatment in alternative settings, such as behavioral health facilities and sobering centers. AB 1795 would help ensure those under the care of a paramedic are quickly transported to the most appropriate facility, resulting in improved treatment for patients and a reduction in ED overcrowding.

Bela T. Matyas, MD, MPH
Solano County

Cameron Kaiser, MD
Riverside County

Robert Oldham, MD, MSHA
Placer County

Claudia Jonah, MD
Kern County

Karen I. Relucio, MD
Napa County

Sara Cody, MD
Santa Clara County

HOAC is dedicated to promoting practices that improve the health of California's residents and believes AB 1795 would be a step forward for our state. Should you have any questions regarding our position on this matter, I invite you to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Robert Benjamin, MD, MPH
City of Berkley

Karen Milman, MD, MPH
Sonoma County

Staff

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director

Sincerely,

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director

Dalia Navarro
Office Manager

Brandon Roberts
Legislative Assistant