



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

July 15, 2015

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1223 (O'Donnell) – As amended June 30, 2015 - Emergency Medical Services
Ambulance Transportation – **OPPOSE**

Dear Chairman Lara:

The County of San Bernardino respectfully opposes AB 1223, legislation that would require the state Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) to develop a statewide standard methodology for the calculation and reporting by local EMS agencies (LEMSAs) of ambulance patient offload delay (APOD) time.

Standardization of APOD methodology is an important goal; however, it does not address the individual local needs of each LEMSA and neighboring hospitals to solve problems with their existing resources. Excess demand for emergency services, for the most part, is beyond both hospitals and EMS providers to solve exclusively. The APOD collaborative has been operating for over two years with many regional collaboratives already working collectively and cooperatively to solve APOD, deeming this legislation unnecessary.

APODs are truly a unique local issue demanding process improvement based on intimate knowledge of the local systems of care. The most important recommendation from the collaborative was the need for local stakeholders to develop their own solutions based on delay incidence, local resources and current needs. As has been shown, individual issues need to be locally and jointly determined, not mandated statewide. What works in one system might not work in others. Standardization and legislation will stymie successful process improvement activities.

The underlying premise of the APOD collaborative was to bring stakeholders together in a positive manner to identify local system process problems and re-design the work flow to minimize delays. While these small tests of change have provided improved APOD times in many areas, the root cause of the problem, intense demand on emergency services must be addressed differently. APOD legislation has minimal effect on resolving the overarching dilemma.

The County of San Bernardino is one of five pilot projects established to develop and implement unique process improvement systems based on distinct factors. Regional EMS systems and hospitals are taking advantage of the strategies developed jointly between CHA, EMSA and LEMSA's to address the issues in a positive non-punitive manner and cognizant that a one-size-fits-all approach does not work. APOD processes are already occurring and legislation that requires measurements that will be used in a retaliatory manner against hospitals is unfair and unnecessary.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ROBERT A. LOVINGOOD
Vice Chairman, First District

JANICE RUTHERFORD
Second District

JAMES RAMOS
Chairman, Third District

CURT HAGMAN
Fourth District

JOSIE GONZALES
Fifth District

GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino respectfully requests a “No” vote on AB 1223. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Ramos', with a stylized, cursive script.

JAMES RAMOS
Board of Supervisors Chairman
Third District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

c: The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
Honorable Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
County of San Bernardino Legislative Delegation