

PRESERVING *our* COMMUNITIES



ACHD / ALPHA Fund – End of Session Legislative Report (October 2011)

| Subject and Bill - ACHD/ALPHA Fund Position | Status | Assigned | Priority |
|---|-------------|----------|----------|
| Coverage & Reimbursement | | | |
| AB 52 (Feuer D) Health care coverage: rate approval. Would require Health Plans to seek approval from both Department of Insurance and Department of Managed Health Care for any proposed rate increases. Moved to "oppose" on 8/29. Could put additional financial pressure on physicians, making recruitment more difficult in rural and under-served communities. Oppose | 2 YEAR BILL | Peter | High |
| AB 113 (Monning D) Health: hospitals: Medi-Cal. This bill would create the "Non-Designated Public Hospital Inter-Governmental Transfer Fund." Would enable District Hospitals to draw down additional federal funding, using Inter-Governmental Transfers. Support | CHAPTERED | Peter | High |
| SB 90 (Steinberg D) Health: hospitals: Medi-Cal. Enacts six month extension of Hospital Quality Assurance Fee, reverses 10% Medi-Cal fee-for-service provider rate cuts, authorizes OSHPD to grant individual hospitals an extension of seismic safety mandates for up to 7 years. Support | CHAPTERED | Peter | High |
| Elder Care | | | |
| AB 40 (Yamada D) Elder abuse: reporting. Addresses the reporting of suspected elder abuse. Currently a mandated reporter of suspected elder abuse may choose between reporting the matter to the local Ombudsman or to local law authorities. AB 40 will require notice to both agencies. Support | 2 YEAR BILL | Tom | Medium |
| SB 558 (Simitian D) Elder and dependent adults: abuse or neglect: damages. Enhances a law that currently allows a filing of a claim under Elder Abuse and Dependent Adult Civil Protection Act thereby allowing attorneys to circumvent the MICRA limits on attorney fees and damages for pain and suffering. Oppose | FAILED | Amber | Medium |
| Hospital | | | |
| AB 762 (Smyth R) Public health: medical waste. Clarifies existing law on the collection, consolidation and treatment of medical waste as defined. Support | CHAPTERED | Tom | Medium |
| AB 1062 (Dickinson D) Arbitration: appeals. Dramatically weakens the enforcement of arbitration agreements by prohibiting an appeal when a lower court refuses to enforce an arbitration agreement. Oppose | 2 YEAR BILL | Amber | Medium |



| | | | |
|---|-------------|-------|--------|
| AB 1339 (Gorell R) Income tax credits: emergency standby generators. Recognizes the implications on Emergency Services ability to sustain operations in an environment of no electrical service Support | FAILED | Tom | Medium |
| SB 24 (Simitian D) Personal information: privacy. The Bill expands/defines the reporting obligations of entities who suspect that there has been a breach of security relative to protected information within their charge. In the event that the breach impacts 500 or more individuals, the responsible entity must file a report with the Attorney General. Support | CHAPTERED | Tom | Medium |
| SB 335 (Hernandez D) Medi-Cal: hospitals: quality assurance fee. Implements the successful hospital provider fee program through December 31, 2013, with an estimated net benefit of \$5.2 billion to California's hospitals, including \$25 million in direct grants to District Hospitals. Support | CHAPTERED | Tom | High |
| SB 336 (Lieu D) Emergency room crowding. As access to care continues to be an issue in California, and as the number of Hospital Emergency Departments continue to decline, the demands on remaining Emergency Departments increase. The real driver of demand here is poor reimbursements from State and Federal programs, reducing the number of physicians other than the Emergency Department physicians, available to provide care. Oppose | 2 YEAR BILL | Tom | High |
| Local Government | | | |
| AB 22 (Mendoza D) Employment: credit reports. Prohibits employers from conducting consumer credit report prior to hiring an employee, unless the information is substantially job related. Oppose unless Amended | CHAPTERED | Amber | Low |
| AB 506 (Wieckowski D) Local government: bankruptcy: neutral evaluation. Creates a formal mediation process that local agencies could choose to utilize before seeking bankruptcy protections under federal law. Neutral | CHAPTERED | Amber | High |
| AB 646 (Atkins D) Local public employee organizations: impasse procedures. Imposes mandatory mediation and factfinding into the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act impasse procedures. Oppose | CHAPTERED | Amber | Medium |
| SB 46 (Correa D) Public officials: compensation disclosure. Requires any person who files a statement of economic interest to, as part of that filing, include a compensation disclosure form that includes the agency's cost for the employee's salary/stipend, employee's benefits, reimbursement payments, and the date on which the employee or official last completed ethics training. Oppose unless Amended | 2 YEAR BILL | Amber | Medium |
| SB 293 (Padilla D) Payment bonds: laborers. Reduces allowable retention on a public works project from 10% to 5% or less. Oppose | CHAPTERED | Amber | High |
| SB 644 (Hancock D) West Contra Costa Healthcare District: certificates of participation: lien. Creates a statutory lien against West Contra Costa Healthcare District's existing parcel tax revenue to ensure that the District Hospital stays open. Support | CHAPTERED | Amber | Medium |



| | | | |
|--|-------------|-------|--------|
| SB 857 (Lieu D) Public employment: unlawful strike damages. Prevents the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) from awarding damages resulting from an unlawful strike. Oppose | CHAPTERED | Amber | Medium |
| Rural Health Care | | | |
| AB 415 (Logue R) Healing arts: telehealth. Modernizes state telemedicine statutes. Eliminates redundant record keeping, reporting and paperwork requirements for providers and patients. Expands venues and providers that may be reimbursed for telemed services under Medi-Cal. Support | CHAPTERED | Peter | Medium |
| Workers Compensation | | | |
| AB 211 (Cedillo D) Workers' compensation: permanent disability benefits. Restructures the Supplemental Job Displacement Voucher that is provided to injured workers that cannot return to work. Oppose unless Amended | VETOED | Amber | Low |
| AB 325 (Lowenthal, Bonnie D) Employee's right to bereavement leave. Requires every employer to provide bereavement for every employee. Oppose unless Amended | VETOED | Amber | Low |
| AB 335 (Solorio D) Workers' compensation: notices. Clarifies the workers' compensation process for injured workers by improving the mandatory benefit notices sent to them by their employers. Support | CHAPTERED | Amber | Low |
| AB 375 (Skinner D) Workers' compensation: hospital employees: presumption. Creates a rebuttable presumption for specified hospital employees for MRSA and other blood-borne infectious diseases. Oppose | 2 YEAR BILL | Amber | High |
| AB 378 (Solorio D) Workers' compensation: pharmacy products. Regulates the dispensing of compounded medications in the workers' compensation system. Support | CHAPTERED | Amber | Low |
| AB 584 (Fong D) Workers' compensation: utilization review. Requires any psychologist who conducts utilization review in a workers' compensation claim to be licensed in the State of California. Oppose | VETOED | Amber | Low |
| AB 947 (Solorio D) Workers' compensation: temporary disability payments. Increases and broadens the list of injuries in which TD payments may be extended from up to 104 weeks to up to 240 weeks. Oppose | VETOED | Amber | High |
| AB 1136 (Swanson D) Employment safety: health facilities. Requires hospitals to provide training for health care workers on the appropriate use of lifting devices and equipment. Support | CHAPTERED | Amber | Medium |
| AB 1155 (Alejo D) Workers' compensation. Provides that race, religious creed, color, national origin, age, gender, marital status, sex, or genetic predisposition shall not be considered a cause or other factor of disability with regard to any workers' compensation apportionment determination. Oppose | VETOED | Amber | Medium |



| | | | |
|---|-------------|-------|--------|
| AB 1168 (Pan D) Workers' compensation: vocational expert fee schedule. Establishes a fee schedule for reasonable maximum fees paid for services provided by vocational experts. Support | CHAPTERED | Amber | Low |
| SB 457 (Calderon D) Workers' compensation: liens. Sets another standard for the payment of medical provider billings outside the Official Medical Fee Schedule adopted by the Administrative Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation. Oppose | CHAPTERED | Amber | Medium |
| SB 863 (Lieu D) Workers' compensation: liens. Reforms the current Liens process. Support | 2 YEAR BILL | Amber | Low |
| Workforce | | | |
| AB 589 (Perea D) Medical school scholarships. Amended from a program for the forgiveness of medical school loans to scholarships for medical students who agree to practice in an "eligible setting". Support | 2 YEAR BILL | Tom | Low |
| SB 635 (Hernandez D) Health care: workforce training. Requires, beginning 2014, all funds over the first \$1 million held in the Managed Care Administrative Fines and Penalties Fund to be transferred each year to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development for the purposes of the Song-Brown Health Care Workforce Training Act. Support | 2 YEAR BILL | Amber | Low |