

March 28, 2011

The Honorable Sandré Swanson
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6012
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT OF AB 1136 (Swanson)

Dear Assemblymember Swanson,

The ALPHA Fund is pleased to support your Assembly Bill 1136, which would require specialized teams for lifting and moving patients. This bill would also require hospitals to provide training for health care workers on the appropriate use of lifting devices and equipment.

ALPHA Fund is a self-insurance pool that provides Workers' Compensation coverage to Health Care Districts, public and non-profit hospitals, clinics and nursing facilities throughout California. The 53 Participants in the Fund range from major urban medical centers to rural facilities and cover approximately 18,000 employees.

Hospitals are faced with many financial burdens, including the costs associated with employee lift related injuries. Each year, our facilities spend millions on work related back injuries caused by lifting and transferring patients.

Patient transfers are the number one loss driver for hospitals through workers' compensation claims. Hospitals simply cannot afford to lose valuable health care workers as a result of transporting or lifting patients. Ultimately, preventing turnover from lift related injuries will save hospitals money in the long run.

Many larger facilities have already implemented lift teams and other special lift procedures, because protecting health care staff helps to ensure high quality health care to Californians. Where implemented, hospitals have found lift teams and other specialized lift procedures to be cost effective over the long term.

AB 1136 will prevent work related injuries in Hospitals. The ALPHA Fund applauds your efforts on this matter and is pleased to support your bill.

Sincerely,

Amber Wiley
Legislative Advocate

Cc: Assembly Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations