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Approved as to Form and Legality


City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER DAN KALB

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 687 (SKINNER) THAT WOULD (1) EXTEND EXISTING ATTORNEY GENERAL NOTICE AND CONSENT REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING THE DISPOSITION OF ASSETS BY NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS CONTROLLING HEALTH FACILITIES TO INCLUDE LEASE OR TRANSFER OF AN EMERGENCY CENTER TO FOR-PROFIT ENTITIES OR MUTUAL BENEFIT CORPORATIONS AND (2) REQUIRE NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS PROVIDING EMERGENCY CENTER SERVICES TO OBTAIN THE CONSENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL PRIOR TO REDUCING OR ELIMINATING SERVICE LEVELS

WHEREAS, between 1996-2009, the number of emergency department visits in California increased by 27% while the number of operating emergency departments shrank by 12%; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, a report by the American College of Emergency Physicians gave California an F grade for access to emergency care due to a lack of emergency room beds; and

WHEREAS, California has the lowest number of emergency departments per capita in the country, with only 6.7 per 1 million people; and

WHEREAS, a study in the Journal of Health Affairs found that nearly a quarter of hospital admissions between 1999-2010 occurred near an emergency department closure, and that these admissions had a 5% higher chance of inpatient mortality (10% for patients under 65); and

WHEREAS, African Americans, Latinos, women, people under 65, and those who were uninsured or on Medicaid are more likely to be affected by emergency department closures; and

WHEREAS, the closure of Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo in 2015 has resulted in a 5-11% increase in EMS ambulance transports to Alta Bates Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, paramedics from the Berkeley Fire Department transport over 5,000 patients a year to Alta Bates, which is roughly 14 visits a day, and taking those patients to Summit Medical Center in Oakland would increase transportation times by 24 minutes; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB) 687 (Skinner) would require any nonprofit that operates or controls a health facility provide notice to and obtain consent of the Attorney General prior to a reduction or elimination of the level of emergency services; and

WHEREAS, SB 687 would give the Attorney General the authority to act on the public's behalf by assessing the negative impacts that a closure or reduction would have on the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council hereby endorses SB 687 and urges the California State Legislature and Governor Jerry Brown to support its enactment into law.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, GUILLÉN, KALB, KAPLAN, AND PRESIDENT REID

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____
LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of
the City of Oakland, California