

1 [Supporting California State Senate Bill 687 (Skinner) - Emergency Service
2 Levels at Health Facilities]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill 687, authored by Senator**
4 **Nancy Skinner, which would require any non-profit that operates or controls a**
5 **health facility to provide notice to, and obtain the consent of, the Attorney**
6 **General prior to a reduction or elimination of the level of emergency services.**

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8 WHEREAS, A study in the Journal of Health Affairs found that 26 California
9 hospitals with emergency rooms (ERs) closed from 1999 to 2010, and another 22
10 closed their ERs but remained open; and

11 WHEREAS, Between 1996 and 2009 the annual number of emergency
12 department visits in the U.S. increased by 51%; while the number of emergency
13 departments decreased by 6%; and

14 WHEREAS, In California, these rates share a similar trend, with a 12% reduction
15 in emergency departments and a 27% increase in total patient visits per emergency
16 department; and

17 WHEREAS, As of 2014, California has the lowest number of emergency
18 departments per capita in the nation – 6.7 per 1 million people; and

19 WHEREAS, Emergency departments are disproportionately used by
20 underserved populations as their primary access to healthcare; and

21 WHEREAS, African Americans, Latinos, women, adults under the age of 65, and
22 those who are uninsured and on Medicaid were more likely to have experienced the
23 loss of an ER in their community; and

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1 WHEREAS, There are currently no restrictions in place on the closure of
2 emergency services and hospitals make the decision to reduce or eliminate ERs
3 regardless of the impact to the surrounding community; and

4 WHEREAS, The Attorney General already possesses the regulatory authority
5 over nonprofit sales and California State Senate Bill 687 (SB 687) would expand on that
6 power; and

7 WHEREAS, SB 687 would require that a public hearing be held to enable the
8 community to provide input on the impact of the closure; and

9 WHEREAS, SB 687 would help ensure that the harmful ripple effects of ER
10 closures can be minimized; and

11 WHEREAS, San Francisco has been a leading force in the efforts to provide
12 health coverage, including emergency services, for all its citizens; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors of the City and
14 County of San Francisco urges the California Legislature and Governor Brown to
15 support and pass SB 687; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors of the City
17 and County of San Francisco directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit this resolution to
18 the California State Legislature and Governor Jerry Brown.

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