



County of Fresno

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February 20, 2018

The Honorable Mike A. Gipson
Assemblyman, 64th District
State Capitol, Room 3173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1795 (Gipson) – SUPPORT
Emergency medical services – community care facilities - As Introduced January 9, 2018

Dear Assembly Member Gipson:

The County of Fresno supports your Assembly Bill (AB) 1795, as introduced January 9, 2018, which would authorize a local emergency medical services agency to submit, as part of its emergency medical services (EMS) plan, a plan to transport specified patients to a community care facility in lieu of transportation to a general acute care hospital. AB 1795 would enable patients to be properly assessed, treated, and transported to a facility specifically designed to meet their individual needs. By allowing prehospital personnel to transport patients to the appropriate care facility the first time, AB 1795 has the added benefit of eliminating secondary transfers, reducing unnecessary and costly emergency department admissions, and increasing the availability of ambulances to respond to life-threatening emergencies.

Under the leadership and direction of local EMS agency physician medical directors, emergency medical personnel deliver patient care to critically ill and injured individuals at their most vulnerable moments. Clearly, these same trained professionals, under the direction of expert emergency medicine physicians, can safely and appropriately meet the special needs of patients best served by community care facilities.

EMS agencies, through their expert physician leadership and working with local community care facilities, can safely design EMS plans that meet the needs of individual patients and the communities they serve. ***AB 1795 would allow Fresno County to better utilize its local resources, which will provide patients with the right care when needed.*** It provides needed alternatives for patients instead of requiring, often unnecessarily, transportation to already overcrowded emergency departments.

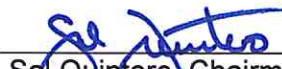
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While we support AB1795 as proposed, we believe the Legislature needs to consider payment to providers who transport to alternative destinations. This is important because, lacking a payment source, the full cost of transport is passed onto the patient who oftentimes lacks the resources to pay for services.

For these reasons, the County of Fresno strongly supports AB 1795. Should you have any questions or need further information, please contact Dan Lynch, Fresno County EMS Director, at (559) 600-3387.

Sincerely,

Fresno County Board of Supervisors



Sal Quintero, Chairman
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cc: Fresno County Legislative Delegation
Paul J. Yoder, State Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties