Hospitals Are Protecting Californians—Now They Need the Legislature’s Help

When COVID-19 hit, hospitals sprang into action to prepare for one of the deadliest pandemics in the past 100 years.

- Converting physical space
- Suspending many procedures and services
- Purchasing PPE
- Hiring additional staff
- And more

This response was unprecedented, and it came at a high cost.

- Delayed capital projects
- Ongoing COVID-19 expenditures
- Operating margins down 139%*
- ED visits down 50%
- Operating room volume down 17%*
- Expenses per discharge up 12%*

*Based on national data from Feb.–March 2020 and CA case study extrapolation.

Conservative estimates put California’s short-term losses at more than $10 BILLION

The Bottom Line

All sectors are hurting, but health care delivery is on the ropes. Hospitals are facing not only a financial crisis, but also a public health crisis. As we work toward the safe reopening of our economy, we must first secure hospitals’ ability to serve, so that we have the safety net needed to rebuild. Without aid, this financial crisis will force hospitals to make hard decisions about how to continue to provide care to their communities.

Hospitals care for everyone. Now the Legislature must care for hospitals.