

California State Senate

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September 21, 2023

Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Veto Request – Senate Bill 525

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing today to respectfully request that you veto Senate Bill 525.

This bill, if implemented, would require that all workers providing health care services including cafeteria, janitorial, housekeeping, grounds keeping, and security services for covered health care facilities (IE: hospitals and skilled nursing care facilities) be paid a future mandated minimum wage of \$25 an hour.

While I am tremendously grateful for the services these hard workers provide, I am also keenly aware of the danger our most vulnerable populations are currently faced with as many hospitals throughout the state are at risk of closing down, particularly those that serve large Medi-Cal populations. This year, the Legislature approved \$300 million in the State Budget to support at-risk hospitals. The hospitals initially asked for \$940 million. If SB-525 is signed into law, it is projected this bill would increase costs by another \$8 billion annually for public and private healthcare providers. Providing funding to help hospitals survive just to push them into a deeper hole a few months later not only worsens their overall plight, it also misappropriates taxpayer money to effectively subsidize state mandated labor policies that hospitals can't afford to implement on their own.

The unfortunate reality is that this bill will likely cause more hospitals to close down, resulting in the complete opposite of the intended outcome. These workers will lose their jobs and the surrounding communities will also suffer from decreased access to essential healthcare services.

I respectfully request that you veto SB-525, and I thank you for your time to read this letter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (916) 651-4032.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Seyarto".

Kelly Seyarto
Senate 32nd District