New Approach to Hospital Seismic Law Protects Communities’ Access to Care

Hospital patients and workers are safe from earthquakes, yet outdated and onerous regulations threaten access to care for communities throughout California.

Where We Are

SAFETY: California’s hospitals have upgraded buildings – at a cost of hundreds of billions of dollars – making them among the safest in the world.

What’s Being Asked

OPERATIONS: Additional requirements call for hospital acute care buildings to remain fully operational. Hospitals that cannot meet additional seismic standards by 2030 will be closed.

A Reasonable Approach

• 21st century health care is vastly different than when seismic regulations were passed.
• Spending billions on buildings isn’t the ideal way to ensure continuity of care or prepare for health care of the future.
• Critical health care services will, without fail, be provided following a disaster.

100% of hospital buildings will be able to withstand a major earthquake by 2025

50% of CA’s hospitals are estimated to operate at a loss if regulations are not modified

“...seismic construction projects that disrupt service provision, reduce the types of services that can be provided, or reduce the overall capacity of the hospital could have adverse consequences for communities.”

2019 Rand Study on California Seismic Standards

How You Can Help

• Support SB 758 (Portantino) which will refocus the 2030 “fully operational” standard to areas of the hospital where emergency, surgical & post-surgical care will be provided for 72 hours following an earthquake.
Hospitals Stand Strong

The Path of Hospital Construction

- Hospital master planning process (~2 years)
- CEO decision
- Governance approval
- Bond financing
- Procurement of design firm
- Design, Architecture, Engineering (2 years)
- Entitlement (approvals for construction, environmental, zoning, etc.)
- Agency approval (2 years)
- Build (~4 years)
- Move-in to make ready for patient use (~3-6 months)

Total: 10+ years!