

# CHA Media Statement

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## California Hospital Association Mourns Passing of Former CEO C. Duane Dauner

“California’s hospitals have lost a true champion with the tragic and untimely passing of C. Duane Dauner,” said CHA President & CEO Carmela Coyle. “For more than three decades, Duane steered California’s hospitals through some of the most pivotal moments in our state’s health care evolution.”

“Duane was an unrelenting advocate for universal health care coverage, dating back to the Clinton Administration in the early 1990s,” Coyle noted. “Duane passionately believed that every person deserved access to affordable, high-quality health care. He was never happier than when the Affordable Care Act was finally passed and signed into law in 2010.”

“Duane’s forward-thinking leadership also resulted in notable initiatives such as the establishment of the Hospital Quality Institute, aimed at improving the quality and safety of hospital care, and the Hospital Fee Program, which has brought billions in new federal funding to California’s Medi-Cal program.”

“Duane’s unwavering dedication to hospitals was in his DNA,” Coyle added. “Even in retirement, he chose to spend his time serving on the boards of several hospital systems across the state. For those of us who had the good fortune to know and work with Duane, he will always be remembered as a kind and thoughtful person who never failed to ask about your family, and always remembered the smallest details.”

“As we mourn his passing from a tragic solo car crash near his home in Palm Desert, we express our deepest sympathies to his wife Diane, his children and grandchildren. Duane Dauner was an inspirational leader and an exceptional human being.”

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