**Seismic Communications Toolkit**

**Sample Op-Ed**

**February 2020**

**Word Count = MAXIMUM 600 Words**

**California Needs a Smart, Reasonable Approach to**

**Post-Disaster Hospital Care**

For [insert name of provider], disaster preparedness is an everyday priority.

Below: Suggest hospital include some/all of the following information in order to “tell its own story” (MAXIMUM of 600 words):

* INFO ABOUT HOSPITAL’S DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES
  + Talk about hospital’s commitment to patient safety and ability to respond after any disaster
  + If applicable, give example of hospital’s response to any recent disaster (wildfires, floods, etc.)
* INFO ON HOSPITAL’S WORK TO DATE ON MEETING SEISMIC REQUIREMENTS
  + Talk about retrofitting/rebuilding efforts to ensure that buildings will remain standing after a major earthquake
* INFO ON CHALLENGE/DIFFICULTIES HOSPITAL FACES IN MEETING THE CURRENT “FULLY OPERATIONAL” 2030 STANDARD
  + Talk about enormous costs of 2030, monies that could be used for patient care services
  + Talk about the role of hospitals in the broader community — that if the entire community is devasted by the earthquake (e.g. water/sewer services, roads, utility grid, etc.), the hospital may not be able to fully function beyond a few days
* INSERT “ASK” OF LOCAL ASSEMBLYMEMBER/SENATOR – e.g. Support SB 758 (see below)
* SB 758 (Portantino, D-La Cañada) will refocus the “fully operational” standard to the physical areas of the hospital were emergency services are provided (ER, surgery and recovery care)
* By taking a more reasonable approach, lawmakers can help make hospital care more affordable.
* SB 758 strikes the right balance between ensuring rapid access to life-saving services and preventing the premature closure of some hospitals.