

Communication from Public

Name: Jaime Garcia

Date Submitted: 05/26/2021 08:51 AM

Council File No: 20-0147-S39

Comments for Public Posting: The Hospital Association of Southern California appreciates the opportunity to provide comment related to supplemental paid sick leave. We understand the council's intent as we value a healthy workforce especially after the holiday family get togethers contributed to an unprecedented winter surge that peaked in January 2021. The negative financial impact of this pandemic on hospitals is real. In 2020, hospitals statewide lost \$8 billion and are expected to lose an additional \$600 million to \$2 billion this year. Adding additional mandated expenses is not sustainable. Staffing ratios, which are non-existent in other sectors, have required hospitals to contract for registry/nurse travelers at double or triple the standard rate. To support our employees, workers have and continue to be able to utilize their various benefits as well as those provided under SB 95 (2021). SB 95 provides access to 80-hours of COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave for eligible employees, who needed to quarantine or isolate and to care for COVID-impacted family members. SB 95 also permits an employee to utilize this time for purposes of obtaining their vaccine shot. We therefore question the need for an additional 16-hours for employees already covered by these benefits given the 700+ vaccination sites (include hospitals) and increased vaccine availability. Both have significantly reduced the COVID+19 positivity rate in our region to less than one percent this past week. This proposal also does not include explicit language against misuse of time. Finally, if the intent of this order is to afford this benefit to employees not already covered under SB 95 or other sick leave benefit, then it should be clearly articulated in the emergency order.