



[StopAB650.com](http://StopAB650.com)

## Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

### Why do you oppose AB 650?

Assembly Bill 650 (Muratsuchi) is costly, dangerous and inequitable. AB 650 would impose well over \$7 billion in unfunded costs on public and private community clinics and hospitals, safety net providers, doctors, skilled nursing facilities and other health care providers. These massive cost increases will force dangerous cuts to vital health care services and safety net services. AB 650 mandates extra pay bonuses for certain health care workers but excludes millions of other essential workers.

### Don't health care workers deserve extra pay bonuses?

- Health care workers are heroes, serving our communities valiantly during the COVID-19 pandemic. That's why community clinics, hospitals, physician offices and other providers are going to great lengths and spending hundreds of millions of dollars to reward health care workers during the pandemic. These efforts include providing bonuses and pay increases, childcare services and subsidies, extended leave, wellness and counseling support, safety precautions and housing, to name just a few.
- In addition, health care providers have taken extraordinary steps to make sure workers are safe on the job. This includes comprehensive screenings of staff, visitors, and patients; continued efforts to increase PPE inventory; deep cleaning procedures; cohorting of patients and workers; and holding vaccine clinics for employees.
- The recent amendments to AB 650 that purport to allow health care providers to offset these investments are completely insufficient and fail to account for the vast majority of investments providers have made to support and reward workers.

### Can't hospitals, clinics and other health care providers afford AB 650?

- Health care providers, who already walk a financial tightrope given massive underfunding at the state and federal level, have lost billions over the last year. For instance, three out of five California hospitals are operating at a loss through the pandemic, and that number has only grown.
- Furthermore, hospitals, clinics and other providers lost billions over the last year as resources were shifted to address the pandemic and many patient procedures halted. It's estimated California hospitals alone lost more than \$14 billion in 2020, with the potential to lose billions more through 2021.
- AB 650's costs will be passed on to patients in the form of higher health care costs and cuts to health care services. This is a bad idea at a time when many Californians are suffering financial

hardships and will only widen the gaps in access to health care among low-income and disadvantaged communities.

### **Who pays for AB650?**

- We all do. AB 650 would, conservatively, increase costs by at least \$7 billion at a time when we're trying to control health care costs. That's more than \$7 billion in unfunded, unbudgeted expenses that will be passed on to consumers in the form of higher health care costs, including higher insurance costs, higher copays and higher deductibles.
- AB 650 would also mean billions in unfunded higher costs for Medi-Cal and other state-funded health care programs that will drain resources available for other health care and state budget priorities.

### **How would AB 650 impact access to care?**

- Faced with billions in unfunded higher costs, many health care providers will be forced to make difficult decisions around reducing worker hours, eliminating services, or even shutting down altogether – jeopardizing access to care at the worst possible time.
- The recent amendments to add in **all public** hospitals will force severe cuts to safety net services already struggling and hurt underserved patients most in need.
- Especially as we emerge from the pandemic, we need to be investing and strengthening our health care safety net, not massively increasing costs that will decimate services.

### **Aren't the bill sponsors pushing for state budget funding to offset the costs for providers who have lost money during the pandemic?**

- AB 650 would cost public and private hospitals, clinics, health systems and other providers well over \$7 billion. There are absolutely no guarantees that any state money will be available to fund this mandate, and there was no money in the Governor's may revise for this purpose.
- Furthermore, California's community clinics, hospitals, and public health systems are all straining from the weight of the pandemic. We should be focusing any available state resources to restore services and to better prepare our health care safety net for future emergencies.

### **Why do you think so many other essential frontline workers were excluded from this bill?**

- We have no idea, but AB 650 lets Sacramento politicians arbitrarily pick winners and losers.

## Who opposes AB 650?

A growing coalition opposes AB 650. The current list of opposition includes:

- Association of California Healthcare Districts
- California Association of Health Facilities
- California Association for Health Services at Home
- California Children's Hospital Association
- California Association of Medical Product Suppliers
- California Hospital Association
- California Dialysis Council
- California Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery
- California Opioid Maintenance Providers
- California Radiological Society
- Adventist Health
- Bayshire Senior Communities
- Ensign Services, Inc.
- BHC Alhambra Hospital
- Canyon Ridge Hospital
- Cedars-Sinai
- Central California Partnership for Health
- Corona Regional Medical Center
- Del Amo Behavioral Health System of Southern California
- Developmental Services Network
- Fremont Hospital
- Good Samaritan Hospital
- Grossmont Post Acute Care
- Scripps Health
- Seneca Healthcare District
- Sharp HealthCare
- Sierra Vista Hospital
- California Business Roundtable
- California Chamber of Commerce
- California Taxpayers Association
- California Taxpayer Protection Committee
- Los Angeles County Business Federation
- Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce
- Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce
- CalPACE
- Pediatric Day Health Care Coalition
- Bay Area Council
- California Association of Joint Powers Authorities
- California Assisted Living Association
- Assisted Home Health & Hospice
- California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
- University of California
- Civil Justice Association of California
- America's Physician Groups
- La Clinica De La Raza
- California Medical Association
- District Hospital Leadership Forum
- California Society of Pathologists
- California Urological Association
- Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce
- Fresno Chamber of Commerce
- Heritage Oaks Hospital
- John Muir Health
- Kaiser Permanente
- Kindred Hospitals – California
- LeadingAge California
- LightBridge Hospice & Palliative Care
- Linda Valley Care Center
- Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
- Los Robles Health System
- Manning Gardens Care Center, Inc.
- Marshall Medical Center
- Mayers Memorial Hospital District
- Modoc Medical Center
- Mountain Communities Healthcare District
- Napa Post Acute
- New Generation Health Center
- North Orange County Chamber of Commerce
- Oxnard Chamber of Commerce
- Palmdale Regional Medical Center San Jose
- Placer County Taxpayers Association
- Plumas District Hospital
- Regional Medical Center
- Riverside Community Hospital
- Southwest Healthcare System
- Tahoe Forrest Health System
- Temecula Valley Hospital
- Tenet Health
- Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
- Tri County Chamber of Commerce Alliance
- United Hospital Association
- Valley Industry & Commerce Association
- West Hills Hospital & Medical Center