



June 8, 2023

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The Honorable Laura Friedman
Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5740
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 357 (Portantino) Vehicles: physician and surgeon reporting - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Friedman,

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers of California's sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, supports SB 357, which will remove the requirement that physicians report to the local health officer patients diagnosed with disorders characterized by lapses of consciousness, who then in turn must report to the DMV.

Health officers protect public health in their communities through disease prevention, emergency preparedness, health education and promotion, regulating environmental hazards, and advocating for programs that promote health equity. Existing law mandates an intermediary role for local health officers between the DMV and physicians, but this arrangement fails to enhance public safety and instead imposes an unnecessary administrative burden. SB 357 strikes a delicate balance between safeguarding patient confidentiality and ensuring public safety by granting authorized physicians and surgeons the ability to report directly to the DMV. The bill is also more fair and more accurate than current law, applying to any condition that may impact safe driving rather than singling out disorders characterized by lapses in consciousness.

HOAC is dedicated to promoting practices that improve the health of all Californians. For these reasons, HOAC supports SB 357 requests your "aye" vote on this important measure.

Sincerely,

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director
Health Officers Association of California