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April 10, 2026

The Honorable Nick Schultz
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1607 (Gonzalez, Mark) Emergency Medical Services: Maddy Fund – Support

Dear Chair Schultz,

On behalf of the Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers of California’s sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, we are pleased to support AB 1607 (Gonzalez, Mark), which would extend the sunset on the “Maddy” Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Funds, ensuring access to critical, life-saving emergency health care.

The Maddy Fund is a county-by-county opt-in program, funded through a \$2 fee for every \$10 of a fine on all crimes, penalties, or forfeitures imposed by the courts. The fund is used to reimburse physicians and hospitals who treat uninsured patients in emergency departments (EDs), as well as to support EMS systems. In addition, 15% of the funds collected are allocated to the “Richie’s Fund,” which supports pediatric trauma centers.

Under state and federal law, EDs must provide care regardless of a patient’s insurance status; however, patients remain responsible for the cost of that care. In 2024, 5.9% of Californians were uninsured, and the proportion of uninsured patients who seek care is much higher. In 2023, Californians made nearly 15 million ED visits, and “self-pay/uninsured” was the expected payer for about 5% of ED visits statewide.

HOAC appreciates Assemblymember Gonzalez’ leadership on this important issue and respectfully urges your support for AB 1607.

Sincerely,

Isabella Argueta
Director of Legislation
Health Officers Association of California