



Officers

April 10, 2026

Gail Newel, MD, MPH  
President  
(emeritus)

Assemblymember Mia Bonta  
Chair, Assembly Health Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 390  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ori Tzvieli, MD  
President-Elect  
Contra Costa County

Nancy Williams, MD, MPH  
Past-President/Treasurer  
(emeritus)

**RE: AB 1843 (Elhawary): Communicable Diseases: Hepatitis C — Support**

Aimee Sisson, MD, MPH  
Secretary  
Yolo County

Dear Chair Bonta,

Directors at Large

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 1843 (Elhawary), which would improve access to treatments for hepatitis C by prohibiting prior authorization requirements for medically necessary drugs.

Joseph Iser, MD, DrPH, MSc  
(emeritus)

Hepatitis C is a serious communicable disease that can lead to damage, cancer, and death. An estimated 400,000 people in our state are living with HCV, and more than 35,000 cases are newly reported each year.

Cameron Kaiser, MD  
Solano County

Highly effective treatments are available and are recommended for nearly all people living with HCV. These treatments are also cost-effective and reduce transmission, making timely access critical from a public health perspective.

Dave Canton, MD, JD  
Butte County

Rob Oldham, MD, MSHA  
Placer County

Karen Relucio, MD  
(emeritus)

Prior authorization requirements create unnecessary barriers to care, resulting in delays, treatment abandonment, and worse health outcomes. These barriers disproportionately affect populations already at higher risk of falling out of care.

Anissa Davis, MD, MPH,  
(emeritus)

AB 1843 would remove these barriers by prohibiting prior authorization for these medications, aligning commercial coverage with Medi-Cal and supporting timely treatment.

Eric Sergienko, MD, MPH  
(emeritus)

For these reasons, HOAC urges your support for AB 1843.

Penny Borenstein, MD, MPH  
San Luis Obispo County

Sincerely,

Timothy Peters, MD  
Tehama County

Maggie Park, MD  
San Joaquin County

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