



SB 726 (Ashburn)

Direct Physician Employment

ACHD is co-sponsoring SB 726, introduced by Senator Roy Ashburn (R-Bakersfield).

Current law:

- Bans most hospitals and other health care facilities from hiring and employing physicians.

SB 726 (Ashburn) would:

- Authorize all of California's 62 rural hospitals, and most public Health Care Districts to directly employ up to five doctors each, through the year 2026.
- Prohibit health care facility administrators or board members from interfering in medical and patient care decisions made by employed physicians.
- Make violation of this prohibition punishable as an alternate felony / misdemeanor, with up to two years in state prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Support:

- California is one of only five states that bans direct employment of doctors.
- California leads the nation in the number of physician shortage areas.
- More than 3 million Californians cannot get access to doctors.
- According to the California Medical Association, 7 out of 10 California doctors don't treat Medi-Cal and uninsured patients.
- Doctors cannot survive financially in these areas because of the high concentration of Medi-Cal, Medicare and uninsured patients.
- California's physician hiring ban makes it all but impossible for medically underserved communities - both rural and urban - to recruit and keep the doctors they need.
- According to the latest research, 45% of all medical graduates and seeking work are looking for full time employment in a hospital or clinic – up from 11% just four years ago. California simply cannot compete for these physicians.
- California's medically underserved communities cannot compete for International Medical Graduates, as their visas require full-time employment.
- SB 726 helps address California's physician shortage by providing doctors with the financial security they need to live and work in our communities – without cost to California taxpayers.

Urge your legislators to:

- **Vote Aye on SB 726 (Ashburn)!**