



ACHD Advocacy Policies

Final – Approved by ACHD Advocacy Committee 11/30/23 and Board 12/7/23

The ACHD advocacy team determines positions on state legislation and budget proposals based on ACHD's Advocacy Guiding Principles reviewed bi-annually by the Advocacy Committee and ACHD Board of Directors. Positions may be adjusted throughout the legislative process as amendments to legislation are made and the political climate shifts. The advocacy team drafts letters for every bill with an active position. Letters are sent to the author of the measure, the policy and/or fiscal committee in which the measure is heard, voting members of the policy and fiscal committee, and the minority caucus consultants. Letters are most often required to be sent to the relevant parties one week before the measure is heard in each committee.

Formal Positions:

Support: A position given to bills and regulations that would benefit healthcare districts or is a good public policy, consistent with the Guiding Principles.

Support if Amended: A position given to bills that would benefit healthcare districts if it was amended. For example, a bill could have a positive impact if it included healthcare districts.

Oppose: A position given to bills and regulations that would be a detriment to healthcare districts.

Oppose unless Amended: A position given to bills that would be a detriment to healthcare districts but could be amended to remove the issue. For example, a bill could place restrictions on all employers, but could be amended to remove public agencies or healthcare Districts.

Concerns: A position given to bills that may have direct or indirect impact on healthcare districts but doesn't rise to the level of an "oppose" position in the current form. For example, an Author may be chair of a committee and is willing to work with ACHD to remove or amend issues of concern in the bill.

Neutral: A position given to bills that have been sufficiently amended to remove ACHD's support or opposition.

Watch: A position given to bills that healthcare districts have an interest in, but do not directly affect districts; bills that are in spot/intent bill form but are on a subject area that concerns healthcare districts; bills that are of interest to track, but do not warrant a position.

ACHD Sponsored Measures:

ACHD may sponsor legislation which has a direct positive impact on healthcare districts. Sponsored legislation must fit within the ACHD Advocacy Guiding Principles. The advocacy team will provide the Advocacy Committee with a formal analysis tool to assist in their review of the proposal. The tool will include: the political dynamics, potential stakeholders, possible support and/or opposition, likelihood of passage, impact on all healthcare districts, alignment with the Guiding Principles and other specific

criteria. ACHD's Advocacy Committee shall vote to recommend approval of ACHD sponsored legislation to the ACHD Board of Directors. The advocacy team will begin the sponsored bill introduction process once the ACHD Board of Directors has taken final action to support the proposal. The advocacy team will present the Advocacy Committee with a formal strategy and timeline for the measure's introduction. ACHD may co-sponsor legislation with a partner organization that follows the same policy as outlined above.

Individual Healthcare District Sponsored Measures:

ACHD may take positions on legislation sponsored by and impacting one, or more individual healthcare districts, if the legislation fits within the ACHD Advocacy Guiding Principles. The Advocacy Committee may be consulted with, and may take formal action on such legislation, if time permits. If the legislation has broad implications for healthcare districts statewide or negatively impacts other healthcare districts, the Advocacy Committee shall take formal action based on analysis and recommendations by the advocacy team, if time permits. The advocacy team may consult with the Advocacy Committee Chair and the Board of Directors Chair on such positions due to the timing of the legislative process. The advocacy team will report such actions to the Advocacy Committee.

Legislatively Sponsored Measures Impacting Individual Healthcare Districts:

At such time that a legislator or other non-healthcare district entity introduces a bill that impacts one or more specific local healthcare district(s), the advocacy team will analyze the measure taking into consideration the broad political landscape, the position of the impacted district(s), if any, as well as other essential factors when determining a position. Other essential factors may include the appropriateness and the motivation behind the measure, local politics, and/or the author and sponsor of the measure. The advocacy team will consult with the Advocacy Committee and the Chair of the Board of Directors before taking a position.

Statewide Ballot Measures:

ACHD may take formal positions on qualified statewide ballot measures that fit within the ACHD Guiding Principles. ACHD's formal positions on statewide propositions are determined by a recommendation vote of the Advocacy Committee based on analysis and recommendations by the Advocacy Team. The ACHD Board of Directors will take final action on statewide proposition positions.