

## RESOLUTION NO. 17-43

### Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Emeryville Supporting SB 687 (Skinner) – Attorney General Authority On Hospital Closures

**WHEREAS**, between 1996-2009, the number of emergency department visits in California increased by 27% while the number of operating emergency departments shrank by 12%; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2014, a report by the American College of Emergency Physicians gave California an “F” grade for access to emergency care due to a lack of emergency room beds; and

**WHEREAS**, California has the lowest number of emergency departments per capita in the country, with only 6.7 per 1 million people; and

**WHEREAS**, a study in the Journal of Health Affairs found that nearly a quarter of hospital admissions between 1999-2010 occurred near an emergency department closure, and that these admissions had a 5% higher chance of inpatient mortality (10% for patients under 65); and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans, Latinos, women, people under 65, and those who were uninsured or on Medicaid are more likely to be affected by emergency department closures; and

**WHEREAS**, the closure of Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo in 2015 has resulted in a 5-11% increase in EMS ambulance transports to Alta Bates; and

**WHEREAS**, Sutter Health, owner of the Alta Bates Summit Medical Center Berkeley campus, plans to close the inpatient hospital and its emergency department by 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, if this action on Sutter’s part is taken, it will result in the loss of 347 inpatient beds and will impact patient care throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 687, introduced by California State Senator Nancy Skinner, would require any nonprofit that operates or controls a health facility to submit written notice to and obtain the consent of the Attorney General prior to a reduction or elimination of its level of emergency services; and


**WHEREAS**, the bill would also give the Attorney General the authority to act on the public’s behalf by assessing the negative impacts that a closure or reduction would have on the community; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Emeryville that it hereby supports SB 687.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk will send copies of the resolution to Assemblymember Tony Thurmond, State Senator Nancy Skinner, and Governor Jerry Brown.


**ADOPTED**, by the City Council of the City of Emeryville at a regular meeting held Tuesday, April 4, 2017 by the following vote:

AYES:	<u>5</u>	Mayor Donahue, Vice Mayor Bauters and Council Members Martinez, Medina and Patz
NOES:	<u>0</u>	
ABSTAIN:	<u>0</u>	
ABSENT:	<u>0</u>	

  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
CITY CLERK

  
CITY ATTORNEY