

The Honorable Tom Berryhill
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 3076
Sacramento, CA 95814

Date

Dear Sir:

I am contacting you about AB97 and Medi-Cal cuts that will affect skilled nursing facilities and our rural hospital. I come from (or have a family member that lives in) Mariposa, a small mountain community in the Sierra Foothills. Mariposa is home to the John C. Fremont Hospital and Healthcare District. The hospital is a critical access hospital that serves the entire county, provides emergency medical care and is the sole safety net community provider for primary care. If enacted, the Medi-Cal reimbursement reductions contained in AB97, which amount to 29%, would have a devastating impact on the hospital, its skilled nursing facility and our overall community.

With reimbursement costs that do not cover the cost of providing skilled nursing care, the hospital would be faced with the possibility of closing its nursing home since all its patients are Medi-Cal patients. This action would displace 16 long term residents and force family members, who are often frail seniors themselves, to drive 35-50 miles each way through mountains to visit nursing home patients. Finding other nursing homes who will admit Medi-Cal patients is a difficult process and patients could conceivably be placed as far away as Modesto and Visalia.

(PLEASE INSERT YOUR PERSONAL STORY, EXAMPLE OR THOUGHTS-This portion is VERY IMPORTANT!)

John C. Fremont Hospital provides exceptional hospital and nursing home care. There is a large senior population within Mariposa County that depends on the hospital being there for them when the need arises. If these cuts are implemented, there is a very real chance that the hospital may not be there for the community.

As the fifth largest employer in Mariposa County, John C. Fremont employs about 220 employees. The hospital and these employees contribute over \$15 million to the local economy. Losing this economic driver would have catastrophic effects on the regional economy, our residents and area businesses.

We are asking for your assistance in helping our local hospital with this situation. The John C. Fremont Hospital is a vital part of our community that we cannot be without. I would encourage you to take the time and visit the hospital to see for yourself the services and care it provides. Thank you for your help in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Name

Address Phone/E-mail