



March 15, 2023

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman, Chair
Senate Health Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1091— Healthcare: hospital consolidation

Dear Chair Eggman,

As a representative of the more than four million small businesses in California, Small Business Majority is pleased to support AB 1091, which will discourage anticompetitive behaviors in the healthcare industry. This bill will prevent anticompetitive contracting provisions and strengthen oversight of hospital mergers and consolidation by the Attorney General, a key measure to control healthcare costs and affordability for small businesses.

Small Business Majority is a national small business organization that empowers America's diverse entrepreneurs to build a thriving and equitable economy. We engage our network of more than 85,000 small businesses and 1,500 business and community organizations to deliver resources to entrepreneurs and advocate for public policy solutions that promote inclusive small business growth. Our work is bolstered by extensive research and deep connections with the small business community that enable us to educate stakeholders about key issues impacting America's entrepreneurs, with a special focus on the smallest businesses and those facing systemic inequities.

Access to affordable healthcare is a barrier to entrepreneurship and a top concern for small business owners—especially for women and entrepreneurs of color. In Small Business Majority's polling of California small business owners, we found that 76% of small business owners agree that health provider consolidation should be prohibited if there is no demonstrated benefit in health or cost outcomes.¹ AB 1091 will address rising costs in the private sector that impact every aspect of the system, including raising premiums in the public sector.

Thank you for your support of AB 1091 and for working to create a healthy, competitive marketplace in California. Addressing anti-competitive contracting practices will improve value and affordability for anyone purchasing or receiving health care in California, including for thousands of small business owners and their workers. AB 1091 will do just that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Bliziot".

¹ Small Business Majority, California small business owners support policies to expand health coverage access and lower costs. https://smallbusinessmajority.org/sites/default/files/research-reports/2019-California-Small-Business-Healthcare-Poll_o.pdf

Bianca Blomquist, Policy Director, California
Small Business Majority