



May 11, 2022

The Honorable Chris R. Holden, Chair  
Assembly Appropriations Committee  
1020 O Street, Suite 8220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*RE: Support for AB 2080— Healthcare: hospital consolidation*

Dear Chairman Holden,

As a representative of over 4 million small business owners in California, Small Business Majority is pleased to support AB 2080, which will discourage anticompetitive behaviors in the healthcare industry. This bill will strengthen oversight over hospital mergers and consolidation by the Attorney General, a key measure to control healthcare costs and affordability for small business owners.

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 have 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.<sup>1</sup> AB 2080 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 2080 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 for their workers. AB 2080 will do just that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bianca Blomquist".

Bianca Blomquist, Policy Director, California  
Small Business Majority

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<sup>1</sup> 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](https://smallbusinessmajority.org/sites/default/files/research-reports/2019-California-Small-Business-Healthcare-Poll_o.pdf)