



April 13, 2022

The Honorable Dr. Jim Wood, Chair
Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 2080— Healthcare: hospital consolidation

Dear Chairman Wood,

As a representative of over 4 million small business owners in California, Small Business Majority is excited to support AB 1132, 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 80,000 small businesses and 1,000 business and community organizations to advocate for public policy solutions and deliver resources to entrepreneurs that promote equitable small business growth. A key component of our work involves outreach to small business owners on a range of small business issues, including access to capital, workforce issues, healthcare and more.

Access to affordable healthcare is a large barrier to entrepreneurship and a top concern for small business owners—especially for women and entrepreneurs of color, many of whom have had to reduce hours due to the pandemic. 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.¹ 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,

Bianca Blomquist, Senior Policy & Engagement Manager, California
Small Business Majority

¹ Small Business Majority, March 2019, 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