

Board Meeting

Supplemental Packet

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Northern Inyo Healthcare District

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April 7, 2026

The Honorable Mia Bonta, Chair
Assembly Committee on Health
1021 O Street, Suite 3900
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2665 (Tangipa) – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Bonta and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Northern Inyo Healthcare District, I am pleased to express strong support for AB 2665 (Tangipa), which provides critical supplemental Medi-Cal funding to sustain hospital operations in a remote and medically underserved region of California.

Residents in our region rely on a limited number of hospital facilities to provide emergency, inpatient, and outpatient services across an expansive and geographically isolated area. Due to small population size, workforce challenges, and high operational costs, maintaining financially stable hospital services in rural communities is uniquely difficult. Existing supplemental funding mechanisms have not been sufficient to address these challenges, placing continued access to care at serious risk.

AB 2665 directly addresses this gap by appropriating \$5.5 million in General Fund dollars for supplemental Medi-Cal payments to support hospital providers serving this region. These targeted investments are intended to stabilize operations and prevent potential service reductions or closures that would otherwise leave residents without timely access to care.

Without this support, patients could be forced to travel significant distances, often exceeding 100 miles, to reach the nearest hospital, delaying access to life-saving emergency care and increasing the likelihood of adverse health outcomes. Preserving local hospital access is essential not only for emergency response, but also for maintaining continuity of care, supporting local economies, and ensuring that vulnerable populations, including seniors, Medi-Cal beneficiaries, and low-income residents, are not disproportionately impacted.

Hospitals in rural communities serve as critical infrastructure. They are often among the largest employers in the region and provide essential services that extend far beyond traditional healthcare, including stabilization for patients requiring transfer to higher levels of care. As outlined in prior funding requests, these facilities have already taken significant steps to reduce

costs, including staffing reductions and service limitations, underscoring the urgency of state intervention.

AB 2665 recognizes the unique and urgent circumstances facing these providers and offers a targeted, practical solution to preserve access to care in one of California's most remote regions. By ensuring the continued operation of these hospitals, the bill helps protect the health and safety of entire communities that would otherwise face significant barriers to care.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your AYE vote on AB 2665.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christian Wallis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christian Wallis
Chief Executive Officer
Northern Inyo Healthcare District

Proposed Vision:

“Northern Inyo Healthcare District will be known throughout the Eastern Sierra Region for providing high quality, compassionate, comprehensive care in coordination with regional partners.”



Mission Statement

A Mission Statement is a concise, actionable summary of an organization's fundamental purpose, defining why it exists, what it does, and/or who it serves.

“Northern Inyo Healthcare District provides health care services to improve the quality of life and health for all we serve.”