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Health Care Affordability Board
June 2026
Public Comment Submissions

The following table reflects written public comments that were sent to the Office of Health Care Affordability email inbox by health care professionals.

Date	Name	Written Comment
8/4/2026	Paige Batson	Hi my name is Paige MacLeod and I live in Orcutt, CA within the County of Santa Barbara. As a registered/public health nurse with over 35 years working in Community Health and Public Health settings, I know first hand how important it is to have quality, accessible and advanced level care. Cottage Hospital has been a life-saver not only to my family but to many clients/patients I have served. Without their services, families would have to travel a minimum of 100 miles to other facilities for their care. While this may seem reasonable for some, for a community with a vast number of vulnerable populations, this journey would simply not be possible, thus leaving persons with costly and potentially fatal outcomes. On a personal level, my husband required a surgical procedure that was recommended to occur in Los Angeles, over 100 miles away. Despite the fact that we did have the resources for travel and hotel accommodations, this trip would have created other hardships for which we had no solutions for given the amount of time we would have had to stay in the Los Angeles area. This scenario is not unique, it happens every day, and thankfully Cottage Health Systems is available. Again, I am one of the fortunate ones, but for others, with less resources, leaving our County for the care we could get at Cottage, is a choice others just cannot make. We need Cottage Health Systems to remain solid and accessible for all Santa Barbara Community residents and your support and recognition of how it serves our community needs is essential. I am happy to share how Cottage Health Systems has benefited my 35 years of nursing experience by

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		enhancing the health and lives of our community members. Pardon my brevity
8/7/2026	Vishal Ghevariya	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Thank you for your consideration.
8/7/2026	Cresencia Banzuela	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Thank you for your consideration.
8/7/2026	Daniel Lamb Jr	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive

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8/7/2026	Noah Stites-Hallet, MD	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Our group is an icu group caring for patients with emergencies, and penalizing us for consulting on patients will only encourage us to not take care of critically ill patients, increasing the mortality rate. Thank you for your consideration.
8/7/2026	Eric Schwartz	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care.

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8/8/2026	Kenneth Whitlow	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices, hospital based physician groups, and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. These should also take into account that hospital based physicians have zero control over any cost of services/facilities that are billed by hospitals. Excessive penalties could force physician practices or groups to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Thank you for your consideration.
8/8/2026	Ryan Oliverio	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing

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8/8/2026	Alvaro Garza	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Thank you for your consideration.
8/8/2026	Nehal Ghevariya	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the

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8/8/2026	Sean Adrean	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Thank you for your consideration.
8/8/2026	Joshua Pal, MD	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Thank you for your consideration.
8/8/2026	Leslie Klein	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive

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8/8/2026	Donald Case	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Thank you for your consideration.
8/10/2026	Jenny Devitt	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I am concerned about needing to treat the patient with clinically appropriate measures while being in fear of financial penalties when doing so. Many cancer drugs are very expensive. Will the OHCA

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		bear the responsibility of medical legal risks of not giving a patient standard of care medical treatment or shall physicians under treat in order to stay financially viable? And what physician has time to calculate the total treatment costs and look up the Medicare allowed during their busy day? Remember that you will be seeing physicians under this new untenable strain yourself if you pass this ridiculous proposal. How can a physician be in control of costs of medications and imaging and hospitalization. It is not even possible or feasible to shop around for such services. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Thank you for your consideration.
8/10/2026	Norman Lepor	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Thank you for your consideration.

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8/14/2026	David Aizuss	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Thank you for your consideration.
8/14/2026	Natasha Marston	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Physician services are not the primary drivers of commercial health care spending growth. Enforcement should focus on the entities with the greatest ability to influence costs, not physician practices that lack control over many attributed expenses. Thank you for your consideration.
8/17/2026	Richard Malinick	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed

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8/17/2026	Daniel Carvalho	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Thank you for your consideration.
8/17/2026	Shivani Ruben	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of

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8/17/2026	Patricia Gurney, PNP-BC	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for medical practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, NPs and our physician colleagues should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Thank you for your consideration.
8/17/2026	Devan Miller	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully

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8/17/2026	LaMar Mack	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Thank you for your consideration.
8/17/2026	Elizabeth Hosfield	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Thank you for your consideration.

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8/17/2026	Joyce Fields-Keene	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Thank you for your consideration.
8/18/2026	Glenn Littenberg, MD	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Physician organizations should not be penalized for hospital, specialty care or pharmacy costs that are negotiated or determined by other entities. Physician services are not the primary drivers of commercial health care spending growth. Enforcement should focus on the entities with the greatest ability to influence costs, not physician practices that lack control over many attributed expenses.

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8/20/2026	Neha Bhansali, MD	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Thank you for your consideration.
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8/20/2026	Katrina Saba	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Thank you for your consideration.
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8/20/2026	Melissa Johnson	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing

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8/20/2026	Kathleen Doo	While I support efforts to improve health care affordability, I am concerned that OHCA's proposed enforcement framework would impose excessive financial penalties and could have serious consequences for physician practices and patient access to care. I urge OHCA to adopt a reasonable, phased enforcement approach that prioritizes technical assistance and remediation and development of performance improvement plans before imposing significant financial penalties. Excessive penalties could force physician practices to reduce services, consolidate or close, ultimately reducing patient access to care. Additionally, physicians should only be held accountable for costs they can meaningfully influence, and OHCA must take into account the actual costs of providing health care when enforcing spending growth targets. Thank you for your consideration.
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