



SUPPORT

AB 1130 (Gray)

Improving Access to Primary Health Care

Summary

AB 1130 (Gray) will allow a part-time health centers (intermittent clinics) to be open 30 hours per week.

Code

Amends Health and Safety Code Section 1206 (h) to read: A clinic that is operated by a primary care community or free clinic and that is operated on separate premises from the licensed clinic and is only open for limited services of no more than ~~20~~ 30 hours a week.

Problem

An intermittent clinic is operated by a primary care community or free clinic separate from the licensed clinic and is only open with limited services for no more than 20 hours a week. Intermittent clinics are exempt from licensure; however, they must still meet all other requirements of law. They are commonly opened on school campuses, in homeless shelters, rural areas, embedded in local communities or designed to serve a specific patient population.

Intermittent clinics cater to a wide range of people in need of health services throughout the state where they share a common goal: to break down access barriers in healthcare.

Axis Community Health in Livermore serves its community where 94% earn under 200% of the federal poverty level. Similarly, the patients served by the Asian Resource Center Clinic suffer from drastic poverty levels and 70% of the patient population experience language isolation. Family Health Centers of San Diego operates an intermittent clinic at a veteran's support service facility that helps 2,000 military veterans each year.

The existing limit of hours of operation for these clinics was placed in statute 37 years ago. Today, full time healthcare centers are open longer hours and continue to adapt to the needs of every community.

Unfortunately, limitations on part-time health clinics throughout the state affect the ability for underserved communities, hard to reach populations, and students alike to access healthcare throughout all areas of California.

Solution

AB 1130 will increase the number of hours that an intermittent health clinic is open. Expanding hours will aid in overcoming barriers for patients who are not able to access full-time health clinics and allow flexibility for clinics to serve their patients.

This bill will increase local access to needed health services locally and statewide, regardless of age, ethnic background, or income level, while protecting some clinics from the threat of closure.

Support

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