



May 23, 2025

The Honorable Mia Bonta
Member, California State Assembly
1020 N St, Suite 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1415 (Bonta) – California Health Care Quality and Affordability Act –
SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Bonta,

The Writers Guild of America West (WGAW), on behalf of the more than 10,000 members who write television shows, movies, and streaming programs, strongly supports your AB 1415. This bill allows the Office of Health Care Affordability (OHCA) to evaluate healthcare mergers involving private investors as well as collect data from and impose cost growth targets on management services organizations and health systems.

WGAW members have fought for decades to maintain their multiemployer health plan, which offers portable health insurance to union members and their families. This self-insured plan covers over 20,000 individuals, the majority of whom reside in California. Although the entertainment industry is often identified by its most successful members, the vast majority of WGAW members are middle-class Californians who rely on the continuous coverage that the WGAW health care plan provides.

Like many health plans, the WGAW health plan is subject to rapidly rising costs driven by health care providers. Private equity and hedge fund acquisitions in health care have been shown to increase costs for patients and insurers, while worsening patient care and outcomes.¹ These transactions have skirted OHCA oversight because the Office does not have the authority to collect information directly from private investors or examine the consolidated power of large health systems rather than a collection of individual hospital systems. AB 1415 closes this enforcement gap by granting OHCA additional authority to assess the rising role of private equity, hedge funds, and additional private investors in driving healthcare costs.

The WGAW supported the creation of OHCA² and is now pleased to support this commonsense measure to clarify OHCA's authority. **For these reasons, we strongly support AB 1415 and thank you for bringing forward this important legislation.**

¹ <https://www.chcf.org/resource/private-equity-in-health-care-prevalence-impact-and-policy-options-for-california-and-the-u-s/#related-links-and-downloads>; <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2829041>

² https://www.wga.org/uploadedfiles/news_and_events/public_policy/2021/WGAW-Letter-Support-of-California-Legislation-Create-Office-of-Healthcare-Affordability.pdf

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelagh Wagener".

Shelagh Wagener
Political and Legislative Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erica Knox".

Erica Knox
Research & Public Policy Director