

SB 275: The Healthcare and Essential Workers Protection Act (Pan & Leyva)

SB 275 protects Californians from unnecessary infections and deaths during viral pandemics by requiring both the State of California and healthcare providers to stockpile personal protective equipment (PPE) and prioritize its distribution to low-income, medically underserved communities.

THE PROBLEM: PPE SHORTAGES

PPE shortages endanger the lives of healthcare and essential workers, patients, families, and community members.

The COVID-19 crisis has exposed how ill prepared our hospitals, providers, and other essential industries are when a pandemic hits — and the catastrophic number of infections and deaths that result. **In California alone, more than 17,000 healthcare workers have tested positive for COVID-19, with at least 100 workers dying as a result of becoming infected.**¹

These PPE shortages have disproportionately impacted lower-wage, black and brown essential workers and communities. In the healthcare setting, many workers have been expected to continue working without the proper PPE even as other, higher-paid employees working alongside them have the needed PPE.

¹ CDPH, as of July 14, 2020: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/NR20-161.aspx>

THE SOLUTION: SB 275

The Healthcare and Essential Workers Protection Act will save lives by creating a comprehensive plan for California to ensure we never again find ourselves without appropriate protective equipment during a pandemic or other emergency.

The State and healthcare providers (including hospitals, outpatient and dialysis clinics, and skilled nursing facilities) will be required to build a 90-day stockpile of pandemic-level PPE.

This stockpile must include N95 respirators and other types of PPE that protect the eyes, face, head, and limbs.

The purpose of these stockpiles is to ensure **all** healthcare and other essential workers have access to PPE, including housekeepers, certified nursing assistants, transporters, and other essential workers — not just doctors and other higher-paid workers.

Low-income, medically underserved areas and populations are prioritized to ensure communities of color have access to PPE if they don't have enough.

25% of the PPE must be produced within California to ensure that the State, healthcare, and other essential industries won't have to scramble for PPE from suppliers outside California or outside the country, or find ourselves completely at the mercy of unscrupulous suppliers.

TAKE ACTION NOW

We're counting on strong organizations committed to social justice to support this life-saving legislation.

Submit a letter from your organization to declare your support for SB 275!