



July 2, 2019

TO: Alameda City Council

RE: California Nurses Association is requesting Alameda City Council's support in urging the Alameda Board of Supervisors to hold Alameda Health System (AHS) accountable to the health and safety of our community. AHS administration has sent messages threatening to closing or cutting services at Alameda Hospital. We request that the Council sign on to the following letter, or a version of this letter, urging the Board of Supervisors to intervene and to thwart AHS efforts to put our community at risk of loosing access to healthcare.

Dear Alameda County Board of Supervisors,

We the undersigned organizations, elected officials, and community members support the Healthcare workers at Alameda Hospital in Alameda, CA who are fighting to ensure that Alameda Hospital remains a full-operating facility in the city of Alameda.

We have always valued the Healthcare workers and the contribution they make to our communities by providing safe and therapeutic care for patients and families at Alameda Hospital. Healthcare workers are patient advocates whose work and compassion makes Alameda a safer and healthier place to live. Furthermore, the community of Alameda depends on the care provided by Alameda Hospital. A Public Hospital should not be defaulting to closing down services, but rather, finding creative solutions to improve the health of the community. It is for this reason we support the efforts to keep Alameda Hospital a full service facility as it currently stands.

We are shocked to learn that Alameda Health System's (AHS) leadership does not think that it is a good idea to continue keeping a full-service hospital in Alameda in the near future. The wellbeing of the people in our community requires, safe, effective, and therapeutic care that Alameda Hospital and its Healthcare workers provide. Just in 2017 alone, close to 15,000 patients visited the Alameda Hospital Emergency Department. Closure to any of the existing services would severely restrain the ability of our community members to get the care that they

It is also concerning that in a recent report from California Healthline, it illustrates how AHS is price gouging for services and products they provide. Highland Hospital charges \$129 for a liter of IV fluid, while Kaiser Permanente-Oakland and Richmond charges only \$56. Alameda Health System is charging the community more while threatening closures.

Closing the hospital or even cutting services would make it more difficult for the community to access healthcare: patients will face a delay in their healthcare, overall healthcare outcomes would be worse, and/or patients may also stop seeking the care that's necessary. The closure of Alameda Hospital or diminishing its services will put lives of our community in jeopardy. It also contradicts the real need for quality community hospitals as an essential component of a medical system.

In the interests of the community, we ask for you to hold a public town hall of decisions being explored regarding closure of services at Alameda hospital, conduct an open investigation into

the matters leading to the possible closure of services, and instruct Alameda Health System administrators to immediately cease and desist any plans to close Alameda Hospital or diminishing services to its community and patients.