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TITLE: Reducing the Carbon Footprint of California Hospitals through New Renewable Energy Standards

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Endorsements: Napa – Solano CAFP chapters

WHEREAS, hospitals are responsible for roughly eight percent of the U.S.'s greenhouse gas emissions¹; and

WHEREAS, increasing greenhouse gas emissions affect climate change such that the rates of respiratory, cardiovascular and infectious diseases are increasing, as are famine and direct heat-related deaths²; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. health care sector's electricity use contributes to more than \$600 million in additional health care costs from increased asthma and other respiratory illness³; and

WHEREAS, hospitals have been excluded from the energy efficiency standards applied to other nonresidential buildings set forth by the California Energy Commission since 1982⁴; and

WHEREAS, healthcare represents one-seventh of the US economy and currently spends \$5.3 billion on energy each year, thus wielding significant economic clout⁵; and

WHEREAS, investing in renewable energy can result in significant long-term savings, for example, the Cleveland Clinic passed an initiative with the goal of 20 percent energy reduction per square foot and is currently at 12 percent energy reduction per square foot, and saves \$6 million/year in energy costs, \$3 million of which were from simply switching to LED lightbulbs¹; and

WHEREAS, 30 percent of hospital energy is used in operating rooms (ORs) where measures such as turning off the air conditioning in ORs when they are not in use and reusing sterilized OR instruments can save hospitals millions of dollars each year¹; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that California Academy of Family Physicians (CAFP) urge the California Department of Public Health's Licensing and Certification Division to adopt stronger regulations regarding the sources of energy for California hospitals and standards for energy efficiency in new hospitals, such that all existing

hospitals in California are required to reach a minimum of 30 percent renewable energy by the year 2030 and 50 percent by 2050, and all new hospitals are required to use a minimum of 90 percent renewable energy starting in the year 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in order for hospitals to reach the goals of a minimum of 30 percent renewable energy by the year 2030 and 50 percent by 2050 and all new hospitals using a minimum of 90 percent renewable energy by the year 2020, CAFP should encourage hospitals to install rooftop solar panels, switch to LED light bulbs, maximize insulation within new hospital buildings, shut off air conditioning in operating rooms that are not in use, use hybrid and electric vehicles in their fleet and for transporting supplies, initiate recycling and compost programs, and re-use sterilized instruments for procedures.

Speaker's Notes:

Fiscal Note:

References

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3. Healthy hospitals, healthy planet, healthy people: Addressing climate change in health care settings (2009). World Health Organization. http://www.who.int/entity/globalchange/publications/climatefootprint_report.pdf?ua=1
4. California Energy Commission (2017). Building energy efficiency proposal to the California Energy Commission for the 2019 update to the title 24 part 6 building energy efficiency standards: California energy efficiency standards for licensed healthcare facilities in 2020. <https://www.oshpd.ca.gov/Boards/HBSB/Meetings/20170501-meeting/Hospitals-2019-New-Measure-Proposal-2017-05-04.pdf>
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