



COOPERATIVE OF
AMERICAN PHYSICIANS

March 2, 2022

The Honorable Melissa Hurtado
Senator, District 14
State Capitol, Room 7310
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 920 (Hurtado) Medical Board of California Investigations – Oppose

Dear Senator Hurtado:

On behalf of the Cooperative of American Physicians, I write to express our opposition to SB 920 under your authorship.

As an organization of some 12,000 California healthcare providers, the Cooperative of American Physicians believes in access to quality medical services with a focus on patient protection and confidentiality.

SB 920 would significantly overhaul how the Medical Board of California conducts investigations into complaints filed against physicians. This bill would authorize the Medical Board to obtain confidential medical records of Californians, which would violate patient privacy. Californians must retain the right to their private health information and provide consent to that information only when they deem it is appropriate.

Over the past several years, California has worked diligently to increase privacy protections. Additionally, voters have indicated their support for increased privacy protections and their desire to control the use and dissemination of their private information. This bill takes a step back from that by disregarding a patient's right to privacy with their personal medical information.

The Cooperative of American Physicians believes that California should protect patient privacy and ensure that personal medical information only be accessed when patients have authorized it. For these reasons, we respectfully oppose SB 920.

Very truly yours,

Sarah E. Scher, JD
Chief Executive Officer
Cooperative of American Physicians, Inc.