

September 24, 2021

The Honorable Chairman Andrew Do
The Honorable Vice-Chairman Doug Chaffee
The Honorable Katrina Foley
The Honorable Donald Wagner
The Honorable Lisa Bartlett
Orange County Board of Supervisors
10 Civic Center Plaza
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Supervisors,

On behalf of the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC) and Orange County hospitals and health systems, I write to express our collective concern over the CalOptima Ad Hoc Selection Committee's decision to not advance Peter Baronoff, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of KPC Health and Director of the KPC group, as the number one candidate to serve in the hospital administrator seat of the CalOptima Board of Directors.

For more than a decade, the County has put forward the hospital administrator nominated by the hospital community of Orange County, through a transparent and democratic nominee selection process coordinated by HASC. The past four hospital administrator seats on the board have been appointed through this proven and effective framework for identifying the most qualified leaders to serve on the board of CalOptima while enriching the health of its 847,000 health plan beneficiaries and its robust provider community. Diverging from this proven historical process disregards the breadth of knowledge and experience our hospital leaders bring to CalOptima.

As we navigate an unprecedented global pandemic, hospitals, patients and communities need leaders who are deeply committed to serving Orange County's Medi-Cal population. As the only active hospital or health system CEO nominee, Mr. Baronoff leads a health system that operates four hospitals in Orange County that cares for a large segment of patients who rely on Medi-Cal program access needed health care. Mr. Baronoff is uniquely qualified to strategically guide CalOptima and expand the continuum of care for CalOptima enrollees with complex – and growing – medical needs. Additionally, Mr. Baronoff is the only candidate who has led organizations through this once-in-a-lifetime pandemic – one that will have ramifications on the care delivery system for many years to come.

We urge the Ad Hoc Selection Committee to reconsider Peter Baronoff as a candidate and for the County Board of Supervisors to approve his nomination to the CalOptima Board of Directors. Our long-standing Board nomination model for the hospital administrator seat enables the most qualified health care voices in the county to be heard, and we respectfully request that you also continue to support this well-established and highly effective process.

With regards,



George Greene
President & CEO
Hospital Association of Southern California

cc: Clerk of the Board
Richard Sanchez, CalOptima
HASC Hospital CEOs and Government Relations Executives