

# CNS Legislative Positions for 2026



## **SCR 124 – Epilepsy Transportation**

### **PASSED**

The California Neurology Society is proud to sponsor Senate Concurrent Resolution 124, introduced by Senator Wiener, which recognizes transportation access as a critical determinant of employment, independence, and economic participation for adults with epilepsy. Adults with epilepsy experience unemployment rates higher than those without the condition, largely due to driving restrictions and unreliable public transit, especially in suburban and rural areas. SCR 124 formally encourages the stakeholders to evaluate existing programs, develop policy options, and consider pilot initiatives that improve reliable, affordable, and accessible transportation for individuals with epilepsy. It also encourages coordination with the new Congressional Epilepsy Caucus to advance complementary state-federal strategies. We are also supporting Assembly Bill 1648 (Rodriguez), which establishes a dedicated California Epilepsy Program within the State Department of Public Health. With approximately 450,000 Californians living with epilepsy, the highest of any state, and recent federal cuts to the CDC's Epilepsy Program, California can no longer rely on national data and coordination. AB 1648 fills that void by creating a state-level hub for epidemiological data collection on epilepsy incidence, prevalence, and SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy), while also convening an advisory panel of clinicians, researchers, and advocates.

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## **AB 1798 – Genetic Testing for Life and Disability Insurance**

### **SUPPORT**

The California Neurology Society strongly supports Assembly Bill 1798, introduced by Assembly Member Wilson. This bill protects consumers from discrimination based on genetic testing or biomarker results by prohibiting life and non-health disability insurers from requiring such testing or using the resulting information for underwriting purposes. Current California law allows insurers to request genetic testing under certain conditions, but it does not address the growing reality that insurers may receive genetic or biomarker data indirectly through medical records, even when the insurer did not require or request the test. As neurologists increasingly use genetic and biomarker testing to diagnose and manage conditions such as epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, neuromuscular disorders, and dementias, patients should never fear that pursuing precision medicine will jeopardize their ability to obtain life insurance or disability coverage. AB 1798 closes this loophole, prevents discrimination based on biological traits, and encourages patients to access potentially life-saving diagnostic tools without penalty. Insurance companies should not have the power to penalize patients for seeking knowledge about their own health. CNS is proud to support this critical privacy and anti-discrimination measure.

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## **AB 1558 – Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act**

### **SUPPORT IF AMENDED**

The California Neurology Society supports Assembly Bill 1558, introduced by Assembly Member Arambula, if amended to clarify that volunteer health practitioners providing services during a declared emergency remain subject to the professional duty of care standards enforced by the California Medical Board. The current version of AB 1558 establishes a framework to register and deploy volunteer health practitioners during emergencies, and provides important workers' compensation coverage for those volunteers. However, the bill does not explicitly state that out-of-state volunteers practicing in California must adhere to California's standard of care and professional conduct rules. Without this clarification, there is a risk of inconsistent accountability and potential gaps in patient protection during a crisis. CNS urges an amendment ensuring that all volunteer health practitioners, regardless of their state of licensure, are held to the same duty of care as California-licensed physicians when treating patients in this state. This amendment would preserve the bill's goal of expanding emergency workforce capacity while safeguarding patient safety and professional standards.