

Title: Expanding Transportation Access for Working Adults with Epilepsy

Whereas, epilepsy is a neurological condition affecting thousands of working-age adults and adolescents in California, many of whom are otherwise healthy, capable of employment, and seeking financial independence;

Whereas, individuals living with epilepsy often face driving restrictions due to the risk of seizures significantly limiting their access to employment opportunities, particularly in suburban and rural areas where public transportation is insufficient or unavailable;

Whereas, research indicates that largely due to transportation barriers adults with epilepsy experience unemployment rates more than five times higher than those without epilepsy or those who may suffer from other chronic conditions;

Whereas, the lack of reliable and accessible public transportation for individuals living with epilepsy directly affects their ability to gain and maintain employment, thus severely limiting their financial stability and contribution to the economy;

Whereas, Ireland has successfully implemented policies to improve transportation access for individuals living with epilepsy, demonstrating a feasible model for ensuring mobility and workforce participation;

Whereas, the **California Medical Association (CMA)**, as the state's largest physician organization, plays a critical role in advocating for policies that improve public health, workforce participation, and equitable access to essential services, including transportation;

Whereas, the California Medical Association (CMA) and the California Neurology Society (CNS) seek to collaborate with key state epilepsy advocacy organizations, including the Epilepsy Alliance (EA) and the Northern California Epilepsy Foundation (NorCal EF), to develop solutions that address these transportation barriers at the local, state and federal levels;

Whereas, the establishment of the **Epilepsy Caucus in Washington, DC** provides an opportunity to elevate this issue to a national level, ensuring broader recognition and support for transportation accessibility for working adults with epilepsy;

Be it resolved, that CMA urges state transportation agencies to explore policies that enhance access to public transportation for working adults with epilepsy, particularly in regions where driving restrictions pose significant employment barriers;

Be it further resolved, that CMA in partnership with CNS and key state advocacy organizations will work collaboratively to advocate for transportation solutions tailored to individuals with epilepsy, *aligning local and state-level efforts with national policy initiatives*;

Be it further resolved, that CMA and CNS will engage with legislators, state agencies, community stakeholders and private sector transportation entities to identify existing programs or funding sources that could be leveraged to improve transportation access for working individuals with epilepsy, as a more expeditious means of implementing these improvements;

Be it further resolved, that CMA supports national recognition of this issue by working alongside key advocacy organizations such as the American Academy of Neurology (AAN), the American Epilepsy Society (AES), and the Epilepsy Caucus in Washington, DC, advocating for federal policy solutions to address transportation challenges faced by working adults with epilepsy.