SOCIETY FOR VASCULAR ULTRASOUND

Research • Education • Advocacy

November 10, 2026

Hon. Esmeralda Z. Soria
California State Legislature
1021 O Street, Suite 4110
Sacramento, CA 95814
(Via email: assemblymember.soria@assembly.ca.gov)

RE: **AB 849 (Chapter 442, Statutes of 2025)**

Dear Assemblymember Soria:

On behalf of the Society for Vascular Ultrasound (SVU), we are writing to address **AB 849: The Medical Safety Chaperone Act** with a request for a clarifying amendment to the "pubic or groin region" provision contained in the law.

By way of background, SVU represents the 4,000 Registered Vascular Technologists (RVT's), Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (RDMS's) and Physicians who perform vascular ultrasound across the country, including over 200 members in California.

SVU supports this law and its purpose. What happened to patients at Memorial Hospital Los Banos should never happen. Patients deserve to know they can ask for a trained chaperone, and one will be available. We appreciate your leadership on this issue.

In addition, we are asking for one narrow change in this bill, which can likely be addressed with an amendment. The law, as currently written, defines a 'sensitive examination" as "an ultrasound examination of the pubic or groin region." For vascular ultrasound, the groin is not an intimate exam: it is the starting point for **all** lower extremity venous and arterial studies, post-catheterization checks for bleeding or pseudo-aneurysm(s) or bypass graft surveillance. These exams are performed with the patient draped and the genitalia covered. The ultrasound transducer is placed at the inguinal crease over the femoral vessels.

Finally, we would reiterate that you consider keeping patient choice in place. Any patient should be able to request a chaperone for any exam, including a vascular exam. We ask that routine, draped vascular exams not be classified as sensitive examinations by statute.

During the Senate Health Committee hearing, you stated that you would keep working to address unintended consequences. SVU would welcome the chance to assist by providing clinical expertise or testimony. Please contact Brian Sapp or Anne Jones if needed.

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SVU respectfully requests a clarifying amendment in the 2027–28 session to Health and Safety Code Sections 1234.1, 1264.1 and 124441: we will defer to you for precise language but request that the definition of “sensitive exam” excludes all vascular ultrasound exams that originate at the groin.

Sincerely,

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President
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