



May 14, 2019

The Honorable Adrin Nazarian
California State Assembly
District 46 State Capitol, Room 4146
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1287 Nazarian – Universal Assessments: No Wrong Door system –
SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Nazarian:

On behalf of the California Collaborative for Long-Term Services and Supports (the California Collaborative), a collaboration of 37 statewide aging and disability organizations, I am writing to express our support for your AB 1287, which would require the California Department of Aging, in partnership with other specified departments and in consultation with stakeholders, to develop a plan and strategy for a phased statewide implementation of the No Wrong Door system on or before July 1, 2020. The No Wrong Door system would assist older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers in obtaining accurate information and timely referrals to appropriate community services and supports. The bill would also require the California Health and Human Services Agency to develop a universal tool and process to assess individual need and determine initial eligibility for programs and services available in the long-term services and supports delivery network.

As you know, California's new Governor, Gavin Newsom, committed to development of a Master Plan for Aging in his State-of-the-State address. AB 1287 is a key piece of legislation and an important step for creating such a plan. The need for a Master Plan for Aging cannot be overstated. California's senior

population is expected to nearly double in the next 12 years. Right now, approximately one in five California seniors lives in poverty. Populations of color, those living in rural regions, LGBTQ individuals, and individuals with disabilities are more likely to experience poverty in older age. The over age 50 segment of our population is experiencing the fastest rate of growth in homelessness. A master plan is needed to comprehensively and equitably address these realities. AB 1287 will help these populations obtain access to the services that they are entitled to and need to live and thrive in their communities.

The California Collaborative applauds all the work and various pieces of legislation that are related to the Master Plan for Aging, such as AB 1287. We have developed a set of fundamental principles to guide our own deliberations and contributions to the legislative process as follows:

1. An essential goal of a Master Plan for Aging is ensuring California has in place a robust and affordable LTSS system that addresses needs and thus ensures that older adults and people with disabilities have the opportunity to age in the setting of their choice and access to care that is appropriate to their social and medical needs at every age.
2. The Master Plan must be equitable and address the high levels of senior poverty and prevalence of disabilities, and the socio-economic, racial, cultural, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the state.
3. The Master Plan's development process should reflect invested leadership from both you and the Legislature, and include meaningful input from stakeholders representing consumers, providers, payers, advocates, and policymakers.
4. The Master Plan must be comprehensive, actionable, sustainable, funded, and must have a designated leader with clear responsibility for development of the plan, ultimate authority for implementation, and accountability for progress and results.

The California Collaborative hopes you and your staff will call upon us as a resource to provide information, recommendations, and feedback and to carry the message to your legislative colleagues on the urgency of creating a Master

Plan for Aging California and the important role that AB 1287 will have in supporting both caregivers and beneficiaries to ensure access to these critical community services. AB 1287's progress through the legislative process and the dialogue that process generates will move our state dramatically forward to address the significant economic and social impacts the population growth of seniors will have now and for generations to come. The California Collaborative on Long Term Services and Supports urges a YES vote on AB 1287. Please don't hesitate to contact me at achrist@justiceinaging.org, whenever I or the Collaborative can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amber C. Christ". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amber C. Christ, JD, *Vice Chair for Policy*
California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports
Directing Attorney, Justice in Aging

cc: Assembly Member Jim Wood, Health Committee Chair