



May 14, 2019

The Honorable Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry
California State Assembly
District 4 State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1382 Aguiar-Curry – Master Plan for Aging – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry:

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 1382, which would require the state to adopt a Master Plan for Aging, emphasizing workforce priorities. The bill would require the Master Plan for Aging to prioritize specified issues related to preparing and supporting the state's paid paraprofessionals and professionals, as well as unpaid family caregivers. AB 1382 would establish a universal home care worker category of jobs, including a career ladder and associated training, and develop recommendations regarding the need for high-quality, affordable, and accessible respite services throughout the state for unpaid family caregivers. The bill would also require the Master Plan for Aging to include an implementation plan specifying the goals, objectives, and timelines.

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 1382 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 1382 will provide support for caregivers and the workforce that is needed to effectively implement the Master Plan for Aging.

The California Collaborative applauds all the work and various pieces of legislation that are related to the Master Plan for Aging, such as AB 1382, and we are excited to see legislation that ensures it is actionable and provides the necessary support for implementation. 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 role that AB 1382 will play in creating access to

vital services for Californians. AB 1382'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 1382. 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 style with a large initial "A" and "C".

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