



## CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE FOR LONG TERM SERVICES & SUPPORTS (CCLTSS)

April 12, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara  
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
State Capitol, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **RE: SB 177 (Nguyen) Family Caregiver Respite – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Lara:

The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports is a coalition of 32 statewide aging and disability organizations that promote dignity and independence in long-term living. Our members represent consumers, providers, advocates, labor and insurers, and ultimately we speak on behalf of millions of California seniors and people with disabilities as well as the people who serve them.

We are writing to express our support for SB 177 (Nguyen), which will appropriate funds to the eleven Caregiver Resource Centers to reinstate essential respite services to unpaid family caregivers.

Because the Collaborative represents all parts of the system, looking at systemic problems and solutions is one of our key concerns. The lack of services and supports for unpaid family caregivers is a critical problem that contributes to lower and inappropriate hospitalization.

AARP estimates that 4.5 million California family caregivers contribute 3.85 million hours of unpaid labor to our state's economy. These caregivers are often juggling a full-time job. They are caring for a relative with serious and chronic illnesses, including

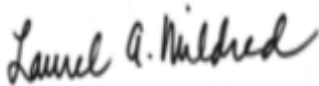
Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's, Huntington's disease, traumatic brain injury, stroke and other serious conditions. The economic value of this unpaid labor is approximately *\$47 billion each year*.

One-third of all California households contain a caregiver who provides 20+ unpaid hours a week, and research shows that as a result of these responsibilities, caregivers often experience worse health than the family member they care for.

Restoring respite services provided by California's Caregiver Resource Centers will enable family caregivers to have a temporary rest from caregiving, while keeping the person being cared for safe and looked after. These services will strengthen the caregiver's ability to stay physically and mentally healthy so that she or he can continue to care for their loved one at home, and consequently avoid costs to the Medi-Cal program and the state budget for unnecessary and expensive institutional care.

We urge your support for SB 177.

Sincerely,



Laurel Mildred, MSW

*For the California Collaborative*

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cc: The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations