



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

June 27, 2018

Hon. Lorena S. Gonzalez Fletcher
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 398 (Monning) - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher:

The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports is comprised of 38 statewide aging and disability organizations that promote dignity and independence in long-term living. Our members include advocates, providers, labor and health insurers and collectively we represent millions of California seniors and people with disabilities, their caregivers and those who provide health, human services and housing.

We are writing in strong support of SB 398 (Monning), legislation which would remove the sunset date on the California Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) program and bring the program's policies and provisions up-to-date.

TBI is a cognitive, psychological, neurological or anatomical change in brain function caused by a blow or jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury. According to the California Association of Traumatic Brain Injury, an estimated 1.3 million residents of California live with this often debilitating condition, which can interfere with executive function, employment, interpersonal relations, money management and severely impact all domains of a person's life.

The TBI program is an essential lifeline for this underserved population, providing supported living, community reintegration, vocational supportive services, public awareness and family support to thousands of individuals thru seven statewide centers administered by the Department of Rehabilitation.

In 2010, the Centers for Disease Control estimated that there were 2.5 million emergency department visits, hospitalizations and deaths in the United States due to TBI. The California Traumatic Brain Injury program provides an essential function of coordinating services to a vulnerable and high-needs population who are often overlooked in systems of care.

We urge your support for SB 398.

Sincerely,



Laurel Mildred, MSW
For the California Collaborative
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cc: The Honorable Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Hon. Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the Assembly
Hon. Brian Dahle, Assembly Minority Leader
Senator Bill Monning