



**California Collaborative for
Long Term Services and Supports**

August 30, 2016

Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor
State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 547 (Liu) - SIGN

Dear Governor Brown:

The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports is comprised of 30 statewide aging and disability organizations that promote dignity and independence in long-term living. We urge you to sign SB 547 (Liu), which would authorize planning and recommendations on how to create a modern structure of service delivery to meet the needs of aging and disabled Californians.

California's diverse senior population is the fastest growing segment of our state's population. The demographic shift means, county by county, most of the state will eventually have more persons over age 65 than children and youth between 2 and 19 years, over the coming decades. The consequences of this shift are significant, especially in how state government organizes to coordinate and deliver services to millions of aging people. California's aging infrastructure was developed fifty years ago. Since then Medicare has matured and Medi-Cal has developed into a massive program. Consumer preferences for community-based care have become clear. In addition, the state has begun to offer health and social services through contracted managed care organizations with the opportunity to coordinate services around individual needs.

State planning and our organizational structure do not reflect these fundamental changes. Most of our programs and services are scattered through many state departments which creates inefficiencies, and strategic planning is nearly impossible. Policymakers cannot comprehend the way services impact one another (which means they cannot make the decisions necessary to meet long-term demands.) Program providers often find themselves competing with one

another for scarce resources and needing to be responsive to multiple state departments. Worst of all, people with significant needs cannot determine how to navigate a complex system of (often small) underfunded programs.

As California confronts the growing number of issues resulting from millions of additional older people who are more diverse in their needs, values and backgrounds, our current system is clearly unsustainable. A growing dependency on Medi-Cal to meet their long term care needs portends a financial crisis for the state.

SB 547 is a modest bill that would authorize a diverse group of committed Californians to look at our confusing network of programs and make recommendations for the next administration on how to create a modern structure of service delivery that creates efficiencies and delivers a person-centered system to carry California through the next fifty years.

We strongly urge your support for SB 547 which will help your successor and those who follow to serve the millions of people living out their older years in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurel G. Mildred". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laurel Mildred
For the California Collaborative
Laurel.Mildred@mildredconsulting.com

cc: Senator Carol Liu