



May 14, 2019

The Honorable Anna Caballero
California State Senate
District 12 State Capitol, Room 5052
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 611 Caballero – Housing: Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities–
SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Caballero:

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 SB 611, which would establish the Master Plan for Aging Housing Task Force to make recommendations for legislation that will help increase the supply of accessible and affordable housing for older adults and reduce barriers to providing health care and social services.

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. SB 611 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. SB 611 will help inform lawmakers about concrete steps that must be taken to ensure that there is access to accessible and affordable housing for older adults and those with disabilities and 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 SB 611. 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 SB 611 will play in creating access to housing for both older adults and those with disabilities. SB 611'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 SB 611. 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, appearing to read "Amber C. Christ". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

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