



April 1, 2019

Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris
State Capitol, Room 4144
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support AB 1128 – PACE Administration

Dear Assemblywoman Petrie-Norris:

The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports (CCLTSS) is comprised of 37 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.

The CCLTSS supports Assembly Bill 1128, which will help keep more seniors in their homes and communities by streamlining the licensing for new or expanding Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) facilities. PACE provides comprehensive care for California's frail population over age 55 who qualify for nursing home placement but wish to remain in the community. Currently, DHCS specifies that a new or expanding PACE organization (PO) may only begin operations on either January 1 or July 1 of each year. These limited start dates present a problem for the licensing side of POs. POs are currently required to obtain licensing approvals or exemptions to operate as clinics, adult day health centers, and, in some cases, home health agencies, from DPH in a lengthy process that is separate from the extensive approval process administered by DHCS. This bifurcated process, along with the limited start dates, can delay the rollout of new and expanding PACE programs by months or even years.

AB 1128 transfers responsibility for the licensing of new or expanding PACE programs from the Department of Public Health (DPH) to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), which handles all other PACE-related functions. Transferring the PACE licensing function from DPH to DHCS removes redundancy and duplication between the reviews by the two departments, and thereby allows new or expanding POs to better coordinate with DHCS. AB 1128 will facilitate program growth, increase access for eligible seniors, and continue to save the state from paying higher costs associated with nursing home care.

For these reasons, CCLTSS is pleased to support AB 1128.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amber C. Christ". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amber C. Christ, JD, *Vice Chair for Policy*
California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports