



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

July 31, 2018

Hon. Toni Atkins
Senate President pro Tempore
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 2132 (Levine) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Atkins:

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 AB 2132 (Levine), which would authorize cities and counties to waive or reduce building permit fees for older adults with a disability. This legislation would reduce costs for making home modifications such as installing ramps, grab bars, widening doors, increasing the height of toilet seats, installing low threshold tubs and showers and other environmental interventions that would support elders with disabilities in their daily living.

Remaining at home and out of institutional care is a high priority for older adults, but the safety of living at home and “aging in place” is often threatened by environmental barriers. Home modifications have been shown to have significant benefits, including slowing the rate of functional dependency, reducing costs for personal assistance and healthcare, and even decreasing mortality among frail

older adults.ⁱ The Weinberg Caregiver Initiative has demonstrated that any home modification of any kind delayed entry into a skilled nursing facility by 13 months and two weeks. Paired with a broad range of supportive services, these findings demonstrated that every \$1 invested saved \$8.50 in nursing home costs.ⁱⁱ

The dramatic growth in California's aging population coupled with the housing crisis is the perfect storm. If we fail to grasp the importance of helping aging adults live cost-effectively in communities, we can anticipate ever-expanding costs to the General Fund as people are forced to access nursing home care.

AB 2132 is an efficient way to support older adults to be able to afford to modify their homes and live safely in the community as they age.

We urge your support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,



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For the California Collaborative
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cc: The Honorable Members of the California State Senate
Hon. Marc Levine, State Assembly

ⁱ Stark, S., Landsbaum, A., et al. Client-centered home modifications improve daily activity performance in older adults. *Can J Occup Ther.* 2009 Jul; 76(Spec No): 235–245. Retrieved on 7-31-18.

ⁱⁱ The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. Weinberg Caregiver Initiative. Retrieved from https://hjweinbergfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2011/09/HJWF-Caregiver-Initiative-Showcase_V7.pdf on 7-31-18.