



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

July 30, 2018

Hon. Anthony J. Portantino  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 3086  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **RE: AB 2233 (Kalra) – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Portantino,

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 support of AB 2233 (Kalra), which requires the Department of Health Care Services to request renewal of the Assisted Living Waiver (ALW), increases the number of available participant slots and makes improvements to the program.

The ALW program gives the state the flexibility to provide a range of services, including traditional medical services and non-medical services. The waiver serves older adults and adults with disabilities who meet nursing home Medicaid coverage requirements but prefer to reside in a community-based setting.

Demand for the ALW program has outgrown availability, leaving approximately 2,500 Californians across fifteen counties on a waitlist. The program is also facing a range of challenges including a shortage of available providers, lack of awareness about the program, low reimbursement rates that discourage provider participation, lack of statewide availability, and administrative barriers.

A critical step forward in providing an alternative to institutionalization, AB 2233 seeks to expand the ALW program to meet the demand of California's growing aging population and ensure access to community services. We respectfully urge your support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Laurel Mildred, MSW  
For the California Collaborative  
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cc: The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Hon. Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore, California State Senate  
Hon. Patricia Bates, Senate Minority Floor Leader  
Hon. Ash Kalra, State Assembly  
Hon. Jim Wood, State Assembly