



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

May 15, 2018

Hon. Joaquin Arambula, MD
Assembly Budget Subcommittee 1 on Health and Human Services
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Hon. Richard Pan, MD
Senate Budget Subcommittee 3 on Health and Human Services
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2430 & BUDGET PROPOSAL TO RAISE MEDI-CAL AGED AND DISABLED INCOME LIMIT - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Arambula and Senator Pan:

The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports 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.

We are writing in strong support of AB 2430 and the related funding for this proposal being considered in the state budget. AB 2430 fixes an inequity in access to Medi-Cal that unfairly penalizes older adults.

Most adults with incomes up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) are eligible for free Medi-Cal because of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). But seniors can only qualify for free Medi-Cal if their incomes are below 123% FPL – the income level for the Medi-Cal Aged & Disabled Program. This means that adults who are eligible for free Medi-Cal at 64 can lose free Medi-Cal when they turn 65.

The only way for seniors with income above 123% FPL to access Medi-Cal benefits is to pay hundreds of dollars in a monthly Medi-Cal “share of cost,” which many cannot afford. The ACA, while good for most low-income Californians, left out over 20,000 low-income seniors. This “senior penalty” reduces access to cost-effective long-term services and supports that provide dignity and independence and control inappropriate health care costs that result from unmet needs.

We urge the Legislature to raise the Medi-Cal Aged and Disabled income limit to 138% FPL to end the senior penalty and make Medi-Cal more accessible for low-income seniors.

Sincerely,



Laurel Mildred, MSW
 For the California Collaborative
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cc: Hon. Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
 Hon. Jay Obernolte, Vice Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
 Hon. Holly Mitchell, Chair, Senate Budget Committee
 Hon. Jim Nielsen, Vice Chair, Senate Budget Committee
 The Hon. Members of Assembly Budget Subcommittee 1
 The Hon. Members of Senate Budget Subcommittee 3
 Hon. Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
 Hon. Brian Dahle, Assembly Republican Leader
 Hon. Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore, California State Senate
 Hon. Patricia Bates, Senate Minority Leader