



CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE FOR LONG TERM SERVICES & SUPPORTS (CCLTSS)

September 1, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 279 (Holden) Adjusts Developmental Disability Provider Rate to Reflect Local Minimum Wage Ordinances – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Lara:

The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports is a coalition of 34 statewide aging and disability organizations that promote dignity and independence in long-term living. Our members represent consumers, providers, advocates, labor and insurers. We speak on behalf of millions of California seniors and people with disabilities as well as the people who serve them.

We are writing to express our support for AB 279 (Holden), which would enable the Department of Developmental Services and Regional Centers to adjust rates for Community Service Providers to reflect local minimum wage ordinances.

Twenty-one California municipalities currently require employers to pay their staff more than the state minimum wage. Without a mechanism to adjust rates to reflect these requirements, providers cannot sustain services to Californians with developmental disabilities, putting them at risk of closure and endangering services to a high-needs population.

We urge you to recognize the importance of sustaining the network of community organizations that serve Californians with developmental disabilities, providing essential supports that comply with the Olmstead decision and allow disabled Californians to live safely in home and community settings.

We urge your support for AB 279.

Sincerely,



Laurel Mildred, MSW

For the California Collaborative

Laurel.Mildred@mildredconsulting.com

cc: The Honorable Kevin de León, Senate President Pro Tempore
The Honorable Patricia Bates, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations