



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

February 9, 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: Budget Proposal for Alzheimer's Public Awareness Campaign - 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 a statewide campaign to raise public awareness of Alzheimer's disease, delivered through the Area Agencies on Aging.

Alzheimer's disease represents a serious and growing public health crisis. Over 2.2 million Californians are directly impacted by the disease, either living with or

caring for someone with the disease. The numbers of those living with Alzheimer's is projected to climb from 630,000 today to 840,000 within the next seven years, and Medi-Cal costs for this population are expected to grow by nearly 60%.

The most important intervention for ensuring quality care for these Californians is an accurate diagnosis, disclosed to the patient and documented in his or her medical record. Astonishingly, this basic step is often unmet. [According to the Alzheimer's Association](#), less than half of Californians living with Alzheimer's and related dementias have been properly diagnosed and informed, and the opportunity is missed to provide disease management and planning for appropriate services and supports.

Addressing the needs of this vulnerable population begins with the power of information: knowing one has the disease. Improving public awareness is a critical first step in reducing negative impacts, human suffering and improving the quality of care for affected individuals. We believe that a campaign to raise public awareness is a key element of improving the lives of those who have or will develop Alzheimer's, and will empower them to plan and create a direction for care that reflects their own needs, personalities and preferences.

We respectfully ask for your support for this proposal.

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  
Diana Dooley, Secretary, Health and Human Services Agency  
Michael Cohen, Director, Department of Finance  
Lora Connolly, Director, Department of Aging  
Hon. Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly  
Hon. Brian Dahle, Assembly Republican Leader  
Hon. Kevin de León, President pro Tempore, California State Senate  
Hon. Patricia Bates, Senate Minority Leader