



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

May 31, 2018

Hon. Phil Ting, Chair  
Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Hon. Holly Mitchell, Chair  
Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5080  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **Re: SUPPORT FOR AGING & DISABILITY ITEMS IN CONFERENCE AND FINAL BUDGET AGREEMENT**

Dear Assemblymember Ting, Senator Mitchell and Honorable Members of the Budget Conference Committee:

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 several budget items that are of crucial importance to California seniors and people with disabilities:

**HHS 5 Department of Aging** – Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, for essential services and supports protecting the rights and wellbeing of nursing home residents - ADOPT ASSEMBLY VERSION \$7.3 MILLION

**HHS 6 Department of Aging** – Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Campaign, to improve diagnosis and treatment for the over 50% of people with dementia who are not informed of their disease – ADOPT ASSEMBLY VERSION \$2.2 MILLION ONE-TIME FUNDS

**HHS 7 Department of Aging** – Senior Nutrition Programs Augmentation, to serve an additional 6% of the growing number of at-risk seniors who need meals and nutrition services – ADOPT ASSEMBLY VERSION \$10 MILLION

**HHS 21 – Department of Health Care Services** – To backfill the expected loss in federal funds for the California Community Transitions Program – ADOPT ASSEMBLY VERSION \$4 MILLION

We also urge that in addition to the above items that are being considered in Conference, it is vitally important that the final budget agreement include several items that have already been adopted by both the Assembly and Senate versions of the budget:

**Department of Health Care Services - LTSS Data** - Funding to collect and analyze data on long-term services and supports access and needs in California - \$3 MILLION ONE-TIME FUNDS

**Department of Health Care Services - Multipurpose Senior Services Program**, to provide a rate increase to the MSSP program serving complex elders who are certified eligible for skilled nursing facility placement - \$4.6 MILLION ONGOING

**Department of Health Care Services - Medi-Cal Eligibility for Aged and Disabled**, to end the senior penalty and raise the Medi-Cal Aged and Disabled income limit to 138% FPL– \$30 MILLION ONGOING

As the population of California seniors and people with disabilities continues to increase, it is essential to make investments in cost-effective long-term services

and supports to meet the population's needs. We urge the Legislature to adopt these critical items to address the growing service requirements of some of California's most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,



Laurel Mildred, MSW  
For the California Collaborative  
[Laurel.Mildred@mildredconsulting.com](mailto:Laurel.Mildred@mildredconsulting.com)

cc: Hon. Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
Hon. Holly Mitchell, Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
Hon. Members of the Budget Conference Committee  
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