



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

March 21, 2019

Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Health Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1042 (WOOD) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports is comprised of 39 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.

The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports supports AB 1042, which will help low-income persons living in a nursing home or other medical facility return home. Many seniors and people with disabilities live in facilities when they would rather live in their community. Medi-Cal pays for institutional living but does not make it easy to return home.

For people living in a facility, there is a “Home Upkeep Allowance (HUA),” intended to help maintain the home until return. This benefit is not well known or used, possibly because at \$209 per month it will not really help save a home in today’s market.

AB 1042 proposes to increase the HUA to an amount based on the actual minimum cost of maintaining the resident's home, including, but not limited to, mortgage or rent, property taxes, and insurance with a cap at 100% of the federal poverty level. These funds would not be counted against a person's assets or income for purposes of Medi-Cal eligibility. For people who do not already have a home, the bill would establish a transitional needs fund to assist in the costs of securing a home.

Leaving a nursing home is difficult even though it is the choice most people want. For people who still need care, many services can be provided at home for far less money than the state pays to a nursing home. At the same time, AB 1042 helps enforce a person's civil right to live in their community.

For these reasons, The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports supports AB 1042.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amber Christ". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Amber Christ
Vice Chair for Policy
California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports

cc: Honorable Chair and Members, Assembly Health Committee
Scott Bain, Assembly Health Committee