



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

September 20, 2017

Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor
State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 940 (Weber) – SIGN

Dear Governor Brown:

The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports is comprised of 34 statewide aging and disability organizations that promote dignity and independence in long-term living. Our members include advocates, providers, labor and health insurers. We urge you to sign AB 940, which would improve person-centered care by requiring the local Long-Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Program to receive discharge notifications for residents in skilled nursing facilities.

AB 940 codifies in state law an amendment to Federal rules, providing clarity by specifying that whenever a skilled nursing facility initiates a resident's discharge or eviction, a copy of the discharge notice will be sent electronically to the local LTC Ombudsman Program. This step will allow the Ombudsman Program the opportunity to contact the resident and provide assistance, if requested, during the discharge process. With early intervention the Ombudsman can often resolve a problem or concern that has triggered the discharge notice, thereby allowing the resident to remain until s/he can be discharged safely from the facility and appropriate alternative services can be arranged.

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is a vital advocacy program for residents in long-term care facilities, mandated in state and federal law to ensure the highest possible quality of life and care for residents of long-term care facilities. They serve as

eyes, ears and advocates for residents, particularly for the 60% of residents without family members visiting to observe care, report problems or to provide assistance.

Many skilled nursing facility residents faced with discharge are not aware of their options. AB 940 ensures that these residents will be afforded a greater opportunity for timely intervention from their local LTC Ombudsman Program.

We urge you to sign AB 940 to provide essential consumer protections for residents of California's skilled nursing facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurel A. Mildred". The signature is written in a cursive style with a loop at the end of the last name.

Laurel Mildred, MSW
For the California Collaborative
Laurel.Mildred@mildredconsulting.com

cc: Hon. Shirley Weber