



## California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports

June 1, 2016

Senator Mark Leno, Chair  
Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review  
State Capitol, Room 5019  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Philip Ting, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Budget  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Leno and Assemblymember Ting:

Re: Support for Three Conference Items for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports is comprised of 30 statewide aging and disability organizations that promote dignity and independence in long-term living. Collectively, our member organizations represent millions of California seniors and people with disabilities.

There are important long term services and supports issues which are not in Conference Committee because the two houses have already agreed. But there are several items that would meet extremely important needs of seniors and persons with disabilities that are in conference. We urge that the following items be adopted in order to address essential community living needs of the growing populations we serve:

**1) Alzheimer's Disease Detection and Diagnosis - Please approve \$2.5 million in one-time only funds.**

Alzheimer's and other dementias are a rapidly growing public health crisis. Less than half of those with Alzheimer's disease have received an accurate diagnosis or an evidence-based care plan, and Medi-Cal costs for this population are expected to grow by nearly 60 percent to \$4.9 billion in the next ten years. These funds enable California to determine the standard of care in early and accurate diagnosis, provide outreach and education, and evaluate the effectiveness of these efforts.

**2) Senior Nutrition - Please approve \$5.4 million General Fund annually.**

Over 655,000 Californians over 65 live in poverty, falling below the Elder Economic Security Standard and having insufficient income to meet their basic needs. These funds will address this growing food insecurity by augmenting existing senior nutrition programs which provide home-delivered meals, distributed through Area Agencies on Aging.

**3) Statewide training system for Adult Protective Services (APS) staff - Please approve \$5 million General Fund annually.**

Approximately 4 to 6 percent of older adults are subject to abuse and neglect. The rapid growth of this age group places unprecedented pressure on agencies that protect them. With these funds, California can create consistent, high quality training for all new APS staff, supervisors, and mandated reporters, and provide training coordination with public guardians/conservators and administrators for those who respond to the abuse and neglect of vulnerable older adults and persons with disabilities.

Funding for long term services and supports suffered devastating cuts during the Great Recession; seniors and persons with disabilities desperately need investments in these safety net programs and services to maintain our state's most vulnerable populations safely in the community and out of institutional care. We urge the Conference

Committee to make seniors and persons with disabilities a priority in the state budget by funding these critical services and supports.

Respectfully,



Laurel Mildred

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On Behalf of the California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports

cc: The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the Assembly  
The Honorable Kevin de León, President pro Tempore of the Senate  
The Honorable Chad Mayes, Minority Floor Leader  
The Honorable Jean Fuller, Minority Leader  
The Honorable Members of the 2016 Budget Conference Committee