



March 21, 2019

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
California State Senator, District 19
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 228 Jackson – Master Plan for an Aging California – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Jackson:

On behalf of the California Collaborative for Long-Term Services and Supports, a collaboration of 37 statewide aging and disability organizations, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for your SB 228, which requires development of a Master Plan for Aging. As you know, California's new Governor, Gavin Newsom, committed to development of a Master Plan for Aging in his State-of-the-State address. SB 228 sets a forth a framework and high-level goals for creating such a plan.

The need for a Master Plan for Aging cannot be overstated. California's senior population is expected to nearly double in the next 12 years. Right now, approximately one in five California seniors lives in poverty. Populations of color, those living in rural regions, LGBTQ individuals, and individuals with disabilities are more likely to experience poverty in older age. The over age 50 segment of our population is experiencing the fastest rate of growth in homelessness. A master plan is needed to comprehensively and equitably addresses these realities.

We support SB 228's concept of an "Aging Czar" appointed by the Governor and a task force to develop the master plan.

The Collaborative understands that SB 228 is a work in progress and appreciates the platform for discussion and further detail and refinement it presents. We

have developed a set of fundamental principles to guide our own deliberations and contributions to the legislative process as follows:

1. An essential goal of a Master Plan for Aging is ensuring California has in place a robust and affordable LTSS system that addresses needs and thus ensures that older adults and people with disabilities have the opportunity to age in the setting of their choice and access to care that is appropriate to their social and medical needs at every age.
2. The Master Plan must be equitable and address the high levels of senior poverty and prevalence of disabilities, and the socio-economic, racial, cultural, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the state.
3. The Master Plan's development process should reflect invested leadership from both you and the Legislature, and include meaningful input from stakeholders representing consumers, providers, payers, advocates, and policymakers.
4. The Master Plan must be comprehensive, actionable, sustainable, funded, and must have a designated leader with clear responsibility for development of the plan, ultimate authority for implementation, and accountability for progress and results.

The Collaborative hopes you and your staff will call upon us as a resource to provide information, recommendations, and feedback and to carry the message to your legislative colleagues on the urgency of creating a Master Plan for Aging California.

SB 228's progress through the legislative process and the dialogue that process generates will move our state dramatically forward to address the significant economic and social impacts the population growth of seniors will have now and for generations to come. The California Collaborative on Long Term Services and Supports urges a YES vote on SB 228. Please don't hesitate to contact me at achrist@justiceinaging.org, whenever I or the Collaborative can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Amber C. Christ, JD, *Vice Chair for Policy*
California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports