



March 17, 2021

The Honorable Adrin Nazarian  
State Capitol, Room 4146  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 911 – Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Nazarian,

The California Collaborative for Long-Term Services and Supports (CCLTSS) is comprised of [60 statewide and regional aging and disability organizations](#) that promote dignity and independence in long-term living. Our members include advocates, providers, labor, and health insurers. Collectively, we represent millions of California seniors and people with disabilities, their caregivers, and those who provide health, human services, and housing.

CCLTSS wants to add its strong support for AB 911, the establishment of a California Long-Term Services and Supports Benefits Board (LTSS Board). We appreciate your sponsoring this bill, which is also being co-sponsored by Senator Pan. Never have long-term services and supports (LTSS) been more needed in our communities.

With almost 8 million Californians that are either older adults or people with disabilities, this population is growing at a significant rate due to longer life expectancy and a growing number of people living longer with physical and mental disabilities. As a result, these individuals will need more and better access to LTSS. LTSS Benefits include a broad range of services that enable older adults and individuals with physical and mental disabilities to live independently in their communities. LTSS includes personal care services, assistance with health needs, assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, toileting, and cooking, adult day services, transportation, social services, in-home support care, assisted living, home modifications, assistive technology, nutrition assistance, person-centered care coordination, supportive services, and nursing facility

services.

Long-term care coverage is cost-prohibitive for older Californian households whose median income is only \$50,000, and Medicare does not provide adequate coverage for LTSS services that older adults and people with disabilities need to live and age with dignity in the community

Sadly, many individuals lose their entire life savings and liquidate assets in order to qualify for an already over-burdened Medi-Cal system in order to access services that allow them to stay in the community and avoid unnecessary institutionalization. These individuals often rely on family members to act as caregivers, which creates a significant long-term financial and social burden for families and can lead to reduced and/or inadequate care options, psychological stress, and poverty.

CCLTSS believes that a broad LTSS benefit program that is flexible, responsive to individual unique needs, and helps to maintain dignity and choice for older adults and people with disabilities is essential. The development of an LTSS benefit will relieve the pressure on the current Medi-Cal system and bring much needed relief to California families.

CCLTSS thanks you for sponsoring AB 911 to establish the California LTSS Board, which would manage and invest revenue deposited in the California Long-Term Services and Supports Benefits Trust Fund (LTSS Trust), and would require the Long Term Supports and Services Subcommittee of the Master Plan on Aging to provide ongoing advice and recommendations to the LTSS Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Dowdy". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "E" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Eric Dowdy, Chair  
Board of Directors  
California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports

cc: Senator Richard Pan