



March 15, 2021

The Honorable Melissa Hurtado  
Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services  
1020 N Street, Room 521  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 515 (Pan) – Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) - SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Hurtado,

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 SB 515, the establishment of a California Long-Term Services and Supports Benefits Board (LTSS Board), sponsored by Senator Pan and co-sponsored by Assembly Member Nazarian. Never have long-term services (LTSS) and supports 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 respectfully asks for your support in establishing 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 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", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eric Dowdy, Chair  
Board of Directors

California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports

cc: Senator Pan