



CWDA
Advancing Human Services
for the Welfare of All Californians

925 L Street, Suite 350
Sacramento, CA 95814
p: 916.443.1749 | f: 916.443.3202
cwda.org

March 1, 2022

The Honorable Lisa Calderon
Assembly Member, State of California
1021 O Street Room 4120
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Assembly Member Calderon:

**RE: AB 2262 (CALDERON) AS INTRODUCED
FEBRUARY 16, 2022 — CO-SPONSOR**

The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) is proud to be a CO-SPONSOR of your AB 2262, which would simplify the In-Home Supportive Services Program (IHSS) annual reassessment process for certain program recipients.

IHSS provides various services, from house cleaning and grocery shopping to protective supervision and paramedical services, to eligible older adults and adults and children with disabilities. The program helps recipients by giving them essential care that allows them to live independently in their own homes. Demand for services provided through IHSS is set to increase significantly. By 2030, one in five Californians will be age 65 or older— double what the over-65 population is today. Many of these individuals will also have a disability, cognitive impairment, or other condition that affects their ability to live independently without help.

By law, IHSS consumers must have an annual reassessment for services, which are performed by county social workers. Current law, enacted in 2004, allows for a “variable reassessment” at county option and on a case-by-case basis if specified conditions are met. However, in practice this option does not apply to many of our consumers who have relatively stable health conditions, and counties are thus unable to utilize this option to streamline most assessments. The variable reassessment process also requires a significant amount of work to determine if the consumer is eligible. Some of the criteria are not tracked directly by the Case Management Information and Payrolling System (CMIPS), and some criteria may not be known to IHSS staff at the time of reassessment.

IHSS applicants and recipients with more complex needs require additional focus by IHSS social workers during the assessment process to support accurate and timely assessments. This includes, for example, individuals who lack other support systems and those with behavioral health needs. Improving the variable reassessment tool to ensure it can be applied to more consumers with relatively stable needs would help the already-underfunded IHSS program keep pace with the growing number of consumers and the growing proportion of those with higher acuity.

AB 2262 accomplishes this by requiring the Department of Social Services to establish an alternative annual reassessment process, as specified, for program recipients with stable needs and whose IHSS

hours do not fluctuate, or fluctuate very little, each year. Upon a determination that an IHSS consumer qualifies for an alternative annual reassessment, county IHSS staff would reach out to the consumer using a pre-filled, simplified CMIPS-generated form containing questions to be answered at a phone/video assessment.

This new alternative reassessment process would still allow the social worker to document and process changes in services as needed by the consumer and would be applicable for two years. Every third year, IHSS social workers would be required to conduct a face-to-face visit during the reassessment. IHSS consumers could opt out at any time and request an in-person re-assessment.

In all, this bill will reduce barriers for IHSS recipients to receive the care they need and assist program providers in meeting increasing demand while grappling with chronically underfunded administrative work. For these reasons, CWDA is proud to be a CO-SPONSOR of AB 2262, along with Justice in Aging.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy Senderling-McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light blue rectangular background.

Cathy Senderling-McDonald | Executive Director