

**AB 1909, THRESHOLD LANGUAGE TRANSLATION
FOR PROVIDERS OF IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
ASSEMBLYMEMBER ADRIN NAZARIAN**

Bill Summary:

AB 1909 requires that the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) translate all written notices and web content intended for providers of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) into the state threshold languages: English, Spanish, Armenian, and Chinese.

Background:

The IHSS program provides personal care and domestic services to Medi-Cal-eligible seniors and persons with disabilities to help them remain safely in their own homes and communities. Approximately 513,000 IHSS providers will serve nearly 550,000 recipients in 2018-19. Statewide, it is estimated that about 40 percent of providers (about 205,000 individuals) speak or read a primary language other than English.

Current state law and regulations require CDSS to translate information notices and resources for IHSS *recipients* into the four most common languages spoken by IHSS recipients (known as the “CDSS threshold languages”).

However, no such requirement exists for IHSS *providers*. The result is that approximately 40 percent of providers across the state receive program instructions, timesheets, tax notices, forms, and other important materials in a language they do not primarily read or speak. If a provider is unable to understand the already complicated IHSS rules, it may jeopardize their pay and, ultimately, their job.

Purpose:

This bill would add a statutory requirement that all written materials to be mailed to or electronically viewed by IHSS providers—including but not limited to informational notices, notices of action, and forms—to be translated into the CDSS threshold languages (currently English, Spanish, Armenian, and Chinese).

Translating materials into these four primary languages would mean that tens of thousands of IHSS providers would be able to access important materials about their job—and how they get paid—in the language of their choice.

Los Angeles County, for example, has 31,000 providers who primarily speak Spanish; 17,000 who speak Armenian; and 9,000 who speak Cantonese or Mandarin Chinese. With AB 1909, these providers—along with thousands of providers across the state—would be able to access the necessary information they need to do their job in their primary language.

By ensuring that the same language translation rules that apply to IHSS recipients also apply to providers, AB 1909 will reduce duplicated workload, provide consistency across the state, and move IHSS toward equity for all providers.

Support:

County Welfare Directors Association of California (co-sponsor)
California Association of Public Authorities (co-sponsor)
UDW-AFSCME Local 3930, AFL-CIO (co-sponsor)

Opposition:

None on file

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