\*\*\* Place on your organization’s letterhead. \*\*\*

[Date]

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown

Governor, State of California

State Capitol Building

Sacramento, CA 95814

*Attention: Donna Campbell*

**Re: AB 1909 (Nazarian) – Request Signature**

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of [ORGANIZATION], I am writing to request your signature on AB 1909 by Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian. This bill will ensure that the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program is run in the most efficient and effective manner, by requiring that materials produced by the California Department of Social Services for use by IHSS service providers be translated into threshold languages.

IHSS is a vital and growing part of our continuum of care for seniors and persons with disabilities. The program enables these individuals to live safely at home, and supports them achieving a rich life, by paying a network of caregivers to provide needed services to them. In a state as diverse as California, it is to be expected that many of the caregivers providing services to the more than 500,000 recipients will speak and read a language other than English. In the IHSS program, ensuring that both providers and recipients are able to understand all of the program materials they receive is critical to the program’s success. If providers fail to properly submit various information to the state on a timely basis, they can be suspended or even barred from the program, causing potentially life-threatening issues for the IHSS recipients in their care if replacement providers cannot quickly be found.

Because of this unique, intertwined relationship between IHSS providers and recipients, we strongly support the ability of our providers to receive translated materials they can read and understand. AB 1909 would require translation of materials in languages that meet certain thresholds, currently Spanish, Chinese and Armenian. An estimated 95,000 providers would benefit from this bill.

We appreciate the state translating some forms and documents for providers into alternative languages, but the translations are not complete, and it cannot be guaranteed without this legislation that such a practice will continue. For these reasons, [ORGANIZATION] supports AB 1909 and respectfully requests that you sign this important measure.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[TITLE]

cc: The Honorable Adrin Nazarian

Cathy Senderling-McDonald, CWDA