**Please send a support letter – On your letter head**

**Sample Support Letter – Assembly Bill 2302 (Arambula)**

**Send Email To:** Ben Nash (ben.nash@asm.ca.gov)

**CC copy to:** csend@cwda.org and wtountas@cwda.org

**[Date]**

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula

Assembly Member, State of California

State Capitol, Room 5155

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2302 (Arambula) – Enhancing Adult Protective Services to Reduce Homelessness – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Arambula:

[Name of Organization] has a position of Support on your AB 2302, which would significantly enhance support and case management provided through the Adult Protective Services (APS) Program. This legislation, and a concomitant budget ask of $100 million to fund its components, will enable APS to keep pace with the rapid growth in the senior population. This will enable county APS staff to provide more intensive services to the increasing proportion of APS cases that involve older and dependent adults with higher-level needs, including those that have cognitive impairments or are experiencing homelessness.

As you know, APS provides a critical role in protecting older and dependent adults in California from abuse, neglect and exploitation. This role is growing and expanding with the population that APS serves, which has grown and changed significantly since the program’s inception. 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 be disabled, cognitively impaired, or facing financial struggles including homelessness. The APS program reflects this growth, having responded to 190,715 reports of abuse in 2017-18, which represents a 58% percent increase in reports since 2011-12.

Currently, the APS Program is largely supported through 2011 Realignment funding, since there is no mandate nor dedicated funding at the federal level. Recent state investments have been made, including a statewide training of APS staff and establishing the APS Home Safe Program, which provides housing-related assistance and homelessness prevention to at-risk APS clients in participating counties. Even with these new investments, county APS programs still struggle to address a new and evolving landscape that includes the rapid growth in the senior population and rise of cognitive impairments within that population, and the severe housing crisis that California is facing. Within current resources, it is difficult for county APS to serve this growing group of victims with more complex needs who require more intensive case management and services.

In our county, the enhanced services and supports envisioned by AB 2302 would allow us to *[insert impact: for example, …expand our existing Home Safe program which has already demonstrated success in the short time we have operated this program…..OR serve victims of abuse or neglect who have multiple, co-occurring needs including dementia and coordinate services across multiple agencies….]*

AB 2302 will help counties to meet the rising demand in the aging population and the increasing complexity of those cases, and will allow the APS program become a program that not only helps California’s most vulnerable older and dependent adults in their time of need, but prevents these same individuals who are victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation from any further trauma and crisis that re-abuse, homelessness, or inability to access needed services might elicit. The bill represents an investment that allows counties to intervene with more seniors in crisis before situations escalate further, deliver longer-term case management services to those with intensive needs, better partner with other systems that can help serve APS clients, and expand the Home Safe program to help address senior homelessness.

For these reasons, [Organization] is pleased to support your AB 2302.

Sincerely,

*Name*

*Title*

cc: The Honorable Joaquin Arambula

 County Welfare Directors Association of California