



March 6, 2015

To: The Honorable Tony Thurmond, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1

Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1

From: Frank J. Mecca, Executive Director

**RE: Support \$36 million for Aging Programs**

The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) respectfully requests your consideration and support for the budgetary initiatives proposed by Assembly Member Cheryl Brown, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care. This package includes \$36 million annually to restore several critical programs cut during the recession and would enhance programs that will serve our rapidly growing aging population.

California's over age 65 population is projected to grow significantly, increasing from 4.2 million in 2010 to more than 6 million by 2020 and will double to 8.4 million by 2030. The oldest demographic, those 85 and older, will grow by 143 percent between 1990 and 2020 and will continue to increase through 2030. The drastic cuts in recent years to the aging infrastructure has left California ill-prepared to meet this growing demographic. It is critical that California take steps now to restore, and plan for, the array of services needed to keep seniors safely in their own homes and communities, and thus avoid most costly, and undesired, consequences for vulnerable populations.

The proposal by Assembly Member Brown includes restoration for Caregiver Resource Centers, Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Centers, the Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program (MSSP), and the seven-percent across-the-board-cut in the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program. In addition, the proposal calls for additional funding to support statewide training in the Adult Protective Services (APS) program, a proposal we are co-sponsoring with the California Elder Justice Coalition and California Commission on Aging. The proposal also requests funding to backfill sequestration cuts to the Senior Nutrition Program, and establishment of a Blue-Ribbon Caregiver Council and Blue Ribbon Panel on Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse.

These are all worthy initiatives deserving of the Legislature's support. Our county human service agencies provide both IHSS and APS services, and the clients we serve would directly benefit from this proposal. In addition, our IHSS and APS social workers rely on, and partner with, other programs included in this proposal to provide additional supports and services to vulnerable populations that enable seniors to remain safely in their homes and improve their outcomes.

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For these reasons, we urge your support for the proposed budget package put forth by the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long Term Care Services.

cc: Gail Gronert, Office of the Assembly Speaker  
Chris Woods, Office of the Assembly Speaker  
Nicole Vazquez, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1  
Julie Souliere, Assembly Republican Fiscal Consultant  
Michael Wilkening, Health and Human Services Agency  
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