



March 4, 2019

Honorable Eloise Reyes
Chairperson, Assembly Human Services Committee
State Capitol, Room 4015
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 426 (Maienschein) In-Home Supportive Services program—SUPPORT

Dear Chairperson Reyes:

I am writing to you on behalf of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) to support AB 426. CARA is California's largest grassroots senior advocacy organization, representing over 1,000,000 seniors and their families through our 275+ affiliated organizations. Many seniors depend on IHSS so that they can age in their homes safely and with dignity.

AB 426 would remove the requirement that applicants must submit a statement from a medical professional indicating their need for IHSS services. This bill would also provide that IHSS service hours can only be reduced or eliminated if there is verification of a change justifying the reduction or elimination of the hours.

In 2011, the Legislature enacted a requirement that IHSS applicants must submit a statement from a medical professional that they need IHSS services. This requirement provides that the form shall be one indicator of the need for IHSS, but the form shall not be the sole determining factor. For all practical purposes it is the social worker's assessment that controls the determination of whether or not the applicant is eligible for IHSS. Applicants generally take this form to their doctors who charge up to \$100 to complete the form because Medi-Cal does not pay for completing a form—it is not a medical service. The form, SOC 873, does not serve any real useful purpose except for clogging up the system with paper and inconveniencing the aged, blind or disabled in need of IHSS services.

Current law does not require evidence of a change to reduce IHSS hours. This bill would simply require that there be a valid reason for reducing that are verifiable and understandable to the IHSS beneficiaries. AB 426 would remove the requirement that applicants must submit a statement from a medical professional indicating their need for IHSS services and it would also provide that IHSS service hours can only be reduced or eliminated if there is verification of a change justifying the reduction or elimination of the hours

For these reasons, CARA supports AB 426 and respectfully requests your "Aye" vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hene Kelly".

Hene Kelly
Legislative Director
415-533-5244

c: Assembly Human Services Committee Members
Office of Honorable Brian Maienschein, California State Assembly (Author)
Nadra Mamou, Office of Assembly Member Maienschein
Cindy Hillery, Assembly Republican Caucus
Kevin Aslanian, Coalition of California Welfare Rights Advocates (Co-Sponsor)