



March 8, 2019

The Honorable Hannah Beth Jackson  
California State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 228 (Jackson) Master Plan for Aging Californians – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Jackson,

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) writes this letter in strong support of SB 228. CARA is California's largest grassroots, statewide senior advocacy organization, representing over 1,000,000 seniors and their families through our 275+ affiliated organizations. A master plan for aging Californians is a priority of our organization.

SB 228 calls for an "Aging Czar" appointed by the Governor to lead a 15-member task force that would work with stakeholders and state agencies to identify the policies and priorities necessary to prepare California for its growing aging population. The task force would include representation from consumers, health care, long-term services and supports, labor, transportation, housing, government, and historically overlooked communities.

Senate Bill 228 sets out the following preliminary goals for the Master Plan including:

- Expanding access to coordinated, integrated systems of care
- Strengthening access to long-term services and supports
- Preparing families to plan and pay for long-term services and supports
- Supporting California's family caregivers
- Increasing access to oral healthcare
- Developing affordable housing options
- Enhancing access to transportation
- Developing a culturally competent paraprofessional and professional workforce
- Preventing exploitation and abuse (financial or physical) of older adults
- Streamlining state administrative structures to improve service delivery

The Public Policy Institute of California estimates that California's older population will nearly double by 2030, bringing an increase of 4 million people over the age of 65. California is currently unprepared to care for this growing and increasingly diverse demographic. Twenty percent of California's older adults live in poverty, and this number is expected to increase with the aging of the state. Despite the programs and services administered by a range of state departments, families struggle to weave together services and financial care in the hope of helping loved ones remain at home.

In their 2015 report "[A Shattered System: Reforming Long-Term Care in California](#)," the Senate Select Committee on Aging and Long Term Care identified a number of system challenges to long-term care, including system fragmentation, lack of access to services, workforce challenges and cultural competency, and a crumbling infrastructure. SB 228 calls for the Aging Czar to work with the task force to examine and address these challenges to the lives of California's aging population.

For these reasons, CARA wholeheartedly supports and thanks you for authoring SB 228. Our organization looks forward to working with you on its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hene Kelly".

Hene Kelly  
Legislative Director  
415-533-5244