



March 22, 2019

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

**RE: SB 280 (Jackson) Older adults and persons with disabilities: fall prevention – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Jackson,

I am writing to you on behalf of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) to support SB 280. CARA is California's largest grassroots senior advocacy organization, representing over 1,000,000 seniors and their families through our 270+ affiliated organizations. Our members are seniors, and many of them are also disabled. Seniors and people with disabilities are often those most impacted by falls within their homes.

Existing law, the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act, finds and declares that one in 3 Americans over 65 years of age suffers a fall each year, often in the home, which can cause serious injury and depression. The act establishes the California Department of Aging, and sets forth its duties and powers, including, among other things, entering into a contract for the development of information and materials to educate Californians on the concept of "aging in place" and the benefits of home modification.

Existing law also establishes the Senior Housing Information and Support Center within the department for the purpose of providing information and training relating to available innovative resources and senior services, and housing options and home modification alternatives designed to support independent living or living with family.

This bill would repeal those provisions relating to the department's provision of information on housing and home modifications for seniors.

Existing law establishes the Program for Injury Prevention in the Home Environment, under which the department, through the Senior Housing and Information Support Center, is required to award grants to eligible local level entities for injury prevention information and educational programs and services.

This bill would repeal those provisions and would instead establish the Dignity at Home and Fall Prevention Program, which would require the department to provide grants to area agencies on aging for injury prevention information, education, and services for the purpose of enabling older adults and persons with disabilities to live independently in the home environment for as long as possible, as specified. The bill would require the department, in consultation with specified experts knowledgeable in injury prevention for older adults and persons with disabilities, to develop a grant application process, specific performance measures on which grant recipients would be required to report, and training materials for the implementation of these provisions. The bill would require the application process to include the submission of a plan that includes, among other things, the projected number of clients to be served and the array of services to be provided. The bill would provide that funding of these grants is subject to the appropriation of funds by the Legislature in the Budget Act or another statute.

For these reasons, CARA wholeheartedly supports and thanks you for authoring SB 280. 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