



March 7, 2019

The Honorable Ben Hueso
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 338 (Hueso) Elder and dependent adult abuse: law enforcement policies – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hueso,

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) writes this letter in strong support of SB 338. CARA is California's largest grassroots, statewide senior advocacy organization, representing over 1,000,000 seniors and their families through our 275+ affiliated organizations. Stopping elder abuse is one of our priorities.

SB 338 would repeal the requirement that local law enforcement agencies and long-term care ombudsman programs revise or include specified information regarding elder and dependent adult abuse in their policies. The bill would instead **authorize local law enforcement agencies** to adopt a policy manual on elder and dependent adult abuse. The bill would require, if a local law enforcement agency adopts or revises a policy manual on elder and dependent adult abuse on or after July 1, 2020, that the policy include specified provisions, including those related to enforcement and training. The bill would additionally require a law enforcement agency that adopts or revises a policy on elder and dependent adult abuse on or after July 1, 2020, to post a copy of that policy on its Internet Web site. The bill would also make clarifying changes to related provisions with respect to the entities that have jurisdiction to investigate elder and dependent adult abuse.

Elder and dependent adult abuse is on the rise. As our state ages, the opportunities for abuse increases. We must give our local law enforcement agencies the authority to investigate and enforce elder abuse laws and to demand that these agencies provide proper training and education so that officers can identify abuse and act appropriately to stop it.

For these reasons, CARA strongly supports SB 338 and ask that you list our organization as a sponsor of this Bill. We look forward to working with you on its passage.

Sincerely,

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

Hene Kelly
Legislative Director
415-533-5244