



March 25, 2019

The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris  
California State Capitol Room 4144  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0002

**Re: AB 1128 (Petrie-Norris) Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Petrie-Norris:

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) supports your Assembly Bill 1128, which will help keep more seniors in their homes and communities by streamlining the licensing for new or expanding Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) facilities. CARA is California's largest grassroots senior advocacy organization representing over 1 Million seniors and people with disabilities and their families through our 270+ affiliated organizations. Aging in place with dignity is one of our priorities.

PACE provides comprehensive care for California's frail population over age 55 who qualify for nursing home placement but wish to remain in the community. Currently, DHCS specifies that a new or expanding PACE organization (PO) may only begin operations on either January 1 or July 1 of each year. These limited start dates present a problem for the licensing side of POs. POs are currently required to obtain licensing approvals or exemptions to operate as clinics, adult day health centers, and, in some cases, home health agencies, from DPH in a lengthy process that is separate from the extensive approval process administered by DHCS. This bifurcated process, along with the limited start dates, can delay the rollout of new and expanding PACE programs by months or even years.

AB 1128 moves the PACE licensing function from DPH to DHCS to remove redundancy and duplication between the reviews by the two departments and allow new or expanding POs to better coordinate with DHCS. AB 1128 will facilitate program growth, increase access for eligible seniors, and continue to save the state from paying higher costs associated with nursing home care.

For these reasons, CARA strongly supports AB 1128 and 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