



March 31, 2019

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

Re: AB 1063 (Petrie-Norris) Healthcare coverage: waivers – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Petrie-Norris,

I am writing to you on behalf of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) to support AB 1063. CARA is California's largest grassroots senior advocacy organization, representing over 1,000,000 seniors and their families through our 270+ affiliated organizations. Universal affordable healthcare such as *Medicare for All* is one of our top priorities.

The Trump Administration continues to sabotage the ACA, including through one of the latest executive actions released last fall. Under this new interpretation, states no longer need explicit state legislation to pursue 1332 waivers. Instead, states can pursue 1332 waivers authorized per state regulation or executive order if the state branch has broad authority to apply to the federal government. This guidance also encourages states to promote junk insurance plans like short-term plans and association health plans, both of which are now banned in California.

AB 1063 (Petrie-Norris) would require legislative approval in order for California to apply to the federal government for a 1332 waiver of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). AB 1063 would assure that the State of California could apply for a 1332 waiver only if it is consistent with Obama-era interpretation of federal law and only if there is legislation authorizing the application. No state agency could apply unless there was further legislation passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

This bill is modeled after SB 1108 (Hernandez), which was enacted last year to stop waivers that would violate the basic purpose of our state Medi-Cal program. AB 1063 will apply the same approach to Section 1332 waivers that the state of California plans to submit in the future.

For these reasons, CARA supports AB 1063 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