



SB 512, Pan, Kalra, Subsidy for Long-Term Supports and Services

What is SB 512, and why do we need it?

SB 512 lays the groundwork to establish subsidies to help middle-income seniors and people with disabilities, who do not qualify for Medi-CAL or IHSS, buy long-term support services, including home care. It establishes a Trust Fund, a Benefits Board, and an Advisory Committee for this program. A companion effort makes \$1 million Budget Request for a study of the benefits, cost, and financing of such a program.

California currently has almost 8 million older adults or persons with disabilities; by 2030, more than one million older adults in California will require some assistance with self-care.

California confronts many challenges in how to finance, develop, and organize Long-Term Support Services.

LTSS are not covered adequately by Medicare, and most Californians cannot afford to purchase private long-term care insurance. Paying out-of-pocket for LTSS is highly expensive, creates a significant financial and social burden for families, and is simply impossible for many Californians. For individuals and families, the unanticipated costs can lead to impoverishment, lack of care options, and intense psychological stress.

Most caregiving is provided by family members, primarily women, without compensation. This impacts their ability to participate in the workforce and save for retirement and ultimately contributes to the feminization of poverty. Nearly two-thirds of individuals age 65 and over and living in poverty are women.

When informal networks of care are not available, individuals and families pay out-of-pocket for LTSS, such as home care aides, assisted living communities, and nursing homes, to help fill the gap. But these services bring high costs, not only to the individuals directly involved, but also to taxpayers and the government with more individuals being forced to spend down to qualify for an already overburdened Medi-Cal LTSS system.

CARA is a member of the California Aging and Disability Alliance, CADA, supporting this bill.

Where is SB 512 in the legislative process?

SB 512 is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No date is scheduled!

What Can You Do to Help Pass SB 512?

(1) Please get your organization to officially support SB 512. Contact Kristina Bas Hamilton, 916-554-0931, kbas@udwa.org, for a support letter template and more details.

(2) Please tell members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee YES on SB 512. Tell them:

- By 2030, over one million older adults in California will need assistance with self-care.
- Long-Term Support Services are not covered adequately by Medicare, and most Californians cannot afford private long-term care insurance. We shouldn't have to spend down to poverty to qualify for Medi-Cal and IHSS.
- Most caregiving is provided by family members, primarily women, without compensation, reducing their ability of work and save for their own retirement.
- We need a new LTSS financing program with flexible benefits for each person's needs.

Assembly Appropriations Committee, updated 4-14-2019					
Dist	First	Last	Affil.	Phone (916)	Fax (916)
05	Franklin	Bigelow	R(v-chair)	319-2005	319-2105
13	Susan	Eggman	D	319-2013	319-2113
18	Rob	Bonta	D	319-2018	319-2118
20	Bill	Quirk	D	319-2020	319-2120
30	Robert	Rivas	D	319-2030	319-2130
33	Jay	Oberholte	R	319-2033	319-2133
34	Vince	Fong	R	319-2034	319-2134
45	Jesse	Gabriel	D	319-2045	319-2145
49	Ed	Chau	D	319-2049	319-2149
50	Richard	Bloom	D	319-2050	319-2150
51	Wendy	Carrillo	D	319-2051	319-2151
56	Eduardo	Garcia	D	319-2056	319-2156
57	Ian	Calderon	D	319-2057	319-2157
72	Tyler	Diep	7	319-2072	319-2172
73	William	Brough	R	319-2073	319-2173
74	Cottie	Petrie-Norris	D	319-2074	319-2174
77	Brian	Maienschein	D	319-2077	319-2177
80	Lorena	Gonzalez Fletcher	D (chair)	319-2080	319-2180

(3) Finally, if you, or a family member, or friend, would like to share a story about suffering from the lack of long-term supports and services; or the challenge of providing them for someone else; or having to "spend down" to qualify for IHSS; or also about good caregiving relationships between clients and caregivers, please email lindsay@domesticemployers.org or allie@cfiic.org or call us at 510-590-8253. Your story could motivate others to join our cause or help open legislators' eyes on the need for action on long-term supports and services.