



May 15th CARA Lobby Day – Proposed Format and Talking Points

Prior to the May 15th Teleconference/Zoom Meeting

- Coordinators should confirm the time and phone number for the meeting with the legislator.
- Coordinators should confirm with all of the participants for the meeting (schedules with participants, times, and phone numbers for teleconference will be sent to coordinators).
- Coordinators should identify other members of their group to speak (if appropriate).
- Participants should contact their coordinator if they have not heard from them directly.
- Coordinators should identify someone to fill out the Report Form (or if they are the only person attending, they will need to fill it out).

Proposed Format for Your Meeting with the Legislator (or their Staff)

- Coordinators should introduce themselves first, and confirm that they will be moderating the meeting.
- Thank the legislator/staff for attending. Go over the Agenda with everyone.
- Introductions of all on the call – give everyone a chance to say their name.
- Explain who CARA is and about our May 15th statewide lobby day (see descriptions below).
- Describe the three main issues that we would like to discuss and get their support/feedback
- Go over each issue one by one – with the ask at the beginning and end of each issue if the coordinator is the only person, they will have to do all of this – suggested talking points below). If there are others on the call, the Coordinator may want to identify someone to go over each issue, preferably someone familiar with the issue who has a personal statement about it to add. Each issue presentation should be no more than 2 minutes.
- After each issue is presented, ask the legislator for any questions or comments. Then move on to the next. NOTE: The legislators have already been sent a package of information on these issues, so our descriptions should be brief.

- After all three issues have been presented, ask if there are any other comments from participants or legislator. Keep these brief.
- Thank the legislators/staff for participating. If there were questions or information requested by the legislator, make sure to restate that and promise to get back to them in a timely matter with the info.
- Adjourn the meeting – these meetings should last no more than 30 minutes, so please keep comments and questions brief and succinct.

Who We Are

The **California Alliance for Retired Americans** (CARA) is California's largest, grassroots senior advocacy organization, representing 1 million seniors through our 275+ affiliated organizations. We work on issues to improve the quality of life for seniors and their families in California. CARA has members in EVERY part of California, and we educate and engage them through our local CARA Action Teams (CATs), which meet on a regular basis to develop local strategies on our key issues. CARA also has a very active Legislative Committee that takes positions on important issues, and attends hearings and legislative meetings in the State Capitol to make sure that our voice is heard.

May 15th – Statewide Senior Lobby Day

Today, CARA members are holding meetings with almost EVERY State Assembly member and Senator – virtually, by teleconference or zoom, as part of our **Statewide Senior Lobby Day** event. We want our elected officials to know that CARA really does have constituents in every legislative district who are concerned about the direction our state is going as it relates to the needs of seniors and people with disabilities – which are also the fastest growing demographic in our state.

Three CARA Priority Issues for Today's Lobby Day

CARA takes positions on many bills throughout the legislative session. From those, we identify key priorities that match with the issues our members vote on at our annual convention. This year we are focusing on 3 issues that are of utmost importance, especially as we deal with the health and financial impacts of COVID 19 to our communities. that we are working on. Today we would like to urge your support and assistance on these 3 Issues: (introduce speaker for each area if appropriate)

1. Support the development of an Improved Medicare for All-Single Payer Health Care program in California.

The COVID 19 pandemic has taught us many lessons. One that was clear prior to the pandemic, but has been amplified over and over, is that our current health care system

is broken – fragmented, costly, unjust and unable to keep Americans healthy and safe. This crisis forcefully illustrates the failures of our employment-based health insurance system. We have an opportunity in California, through the Governor’s Healthy CA Commission and follow up legislation, to develop a health care system that guarantees health care to all Californians at less cost to the individual consumer and the government, while providing a standard set of benefits that covers all essential medical services, prescription drugs, durable medical equipment, and more.

Story here if applicable.

ASK: We urge you to advocate to reengage the Healthy CA Commission and develop a plan to move California, as the first in the nation, to develop an Improved Medicare for All -Single Payer system.

2. Help create a Universal Long Term Supports and Services Plan for all Californians.

We believe that it is time for California to adopt a universal LTSS Social Insurance Program as a top priority so that every Californian can get the support they need to live and age with dignity. And we insist that this benefit should also include provisions that support fair wages and working conditions to attract and retain the LTSS workers needed to fill the growing need. One thing we have learned during this COVID 19 pandemic, is that nursing homes were not only an undesired destination for most of their residents; but that they expose their high-risk residents and their caregivers to greater dangers in the case of pandemics, now and in the future. We desperately need universal LTSS as alternatives to nursing homes.

We believe that a universal LTSS program should also address the growing shortage (estimated by the UC Berkeley Labor Center at 200,000 homecare workers by 2024) of direct care workforce by including provisions that improve wages and working conditions which are good for both workers and their employers and clients.

Story here if applicable.

ASK: We urge you to support legislation and the recommendations made by the Stakeholder Advisory Committee to the Masterplan on Aging and Disability to expedite the establishment of a Universal Long Terms Supports and Services benefit for all Californians.

3. Endorse the Schools and Communities First Initiative on the November 2020 ballot.

More than 1.7 million signatures have been collected by California voters to put the Schools and Communities First measure on the November 2020 ballot. This is the most signatures that have EVER been collected for any ballot measure in California's history. Polling shows, even before the COVID 19 pandemic, that California voters are ready to close the loophole that has allowed large commercial and industrial property owners to avoid any property tax increases for the last 41 years. This has cost our state's schools and local community services billions of dollars, placing even more burden on residential property owners.

The COVID 19 pandemic has placed our schools and local community services in even graver danger; physically and financially. We have an opportunity to address part of the financial challenges that the virus has brought by passing this fair, sensible measure and reassess commercial and industrial properties on a regular basis (like every other State in the country already does)

Story here if applicable.

ASK: We want you to Endorse the Schools and Communities First Initiative on the November 2020 ballot. We also want you to include information on your website, election materials, other publications, and to talk about it in your public appearances.

Wrap Up of Meeting – by Coordinator

- Make sure the legislator/staff has responded to each of the three Asks.
- If more information is requested, please assure them that we will follow up.
- Ask if there are any final comments by CARA members or the legislator/staff.
- Thank them for their time today and end the call.

After the Meeting (COORDINATORS)

- Send an email to all of the CARA folks who joined you thanking them.
- Send an email to the Legislator/staff thanking them.
- Send your REPORT FORM to CARA (or have your volunteer do it) – either by email to caralobby@gmail.com or by mail to CARA/ 600 Grand Ave. #410, Oakland, CA 94610

***THANK YOU ALL FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS FIRST EVER
CARA VIRTUAL LOBBY DAY.***