



May 20, 2020

California State Assembly Appropriations Committee  
California State Assembly Judiciary Committee

**Subject: AB 2377 (Chiu) – Adult residential facilities: closures and resident transfers – Support**

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) to express our strong support for AB 2377, which would strengthen the closure requirements for board and care facilities licensed as Adult Residential Facilities (ARFs). CARA is California's largest grassroots senior and disability advocacy organization, representing over 1,000,000 seniors and their families through our 270 affiliated organizations. Many seniors live in Adult Residential Facilities.

Adult Residential Facilities (ARF) and Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE), commonly referred to as "Board and Cares", offer supportive residential living for individuals who are no longer able to live safely and independently. Throughout the State, these facilities are closing at an alarming rate, with San Francisco alone having lost 43 facilities between 2012 and 2019 (a nine percent decline). ARFs are increasingly serving greater numbers of vulnerable residents, including individuals with serious mental illnesses and other chronic conditions. The current closing requirements for ARFs, which are less protective than those for RCFEs, increase the challenges residents face when facilities close. Already, a third of those experiencing homelessness are suffering from mental illness. Because of their vulnerability and the current housing crisis, residents are especially at risk of becoming homeless.

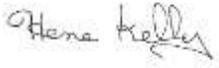
AB 2377 reduces the risk of homelessness for vulnerable residents of board and care facilities by creating more stringent closure requirements for Adult Residential Facilities. Moreover, the bill address a time-sensitive problem related to COVID-19 and could address resources or services that could assist in future emergency or disaster responses. Not only has homelessness become an increasing statewide crisis over the past few years, the intersection between public health and those experiencing homelessness should be at the forefront of California legislative priorities this year. Indeed, these populations often suffer from chronic health conditions, little or no access to medical care, and lack the ability to practice social distancing to avoid the transmission of COVID-19.

It is imperative that we take preventative measures in 2020 by helping those most vulnerable to homelessness. To ensure the growing vulnerable ARF resident population is provided similar protections that residents of RCFEs have when a facility closes, AB 2377 will align ARF closure requirements with those of RCFEs.

By improving closure requirements, California will be better able to reduce the effects of homelessness, protect some of the state's most vulnerable communities, and reduce the risk of future public health emergencies.

**For these reasons CARA urges you to vote YES on AB 2377 when it comes before your committee.**

Sincerely,

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

Hene Kelly  
Legislative Director  
415-533-5244

cc: Julianne Cravotto