



CARA Alert – MAY 18th, 2020

A publication of the California Alliance for Retired Americans

May 15th Senior and Disability Lobby Day a HUGE, TREMENDOUS SUCCESS



Hundreds of CARA members and partners participated in CARA's first ever "VIRTUAL LOBBY DAY. Constituents (CARA Members and Friends) were able to meet with 100 of California's 120 State Assembly members and Senators or their staff members on 3 key issues, and asked them to:

- 1. *Re-engage the Governor's Healthy California for All Commission to develop a plan to move California to a universal, single financing system that covers healthcare for everyone in California. The pandemic has added to the numbers of people uninsured and underinsured.***
- 2. *Develop a plan to provide a universal long term supports and services plan so that all Californians have the option to recover and age at home rather than in an institution.***
- 3. *Support the Schools and Communities First Initiative on the November 2020 ballot to bring billions of needed dollars to schools and local community services by closing corporate loopholes and making commercial and industrial property owners pay their fair share of taxes.***

This was a massive undertaking, and a HUGE THANK YOU goes to everyone who participated as a Coordinator or Team member at these meetings. An extra special THANK YOU goes to Jenni Chang, CARA's L.A. Organizer, who helped coordinate all of the scheduling with legislators and CARA members, Cynthia Lopez, CARA's Administrative Coordinator who helped keep us organized and get phone numbers to all of the teams, Chuck Walker, CARA's Webmaster who kept all of the schedules and materials updated on the CARA website, and Susan Meyer and Jodi Reid who helped coordinate participation from all of our CAT members, organizational affiliates and partners.

If you were able to take screen shots of your zoom meeting, please send them to caralobby@gmail.com. Also, please send your report forms from your meetings to caralobby@gmail.com, or mail them to the CARA office listed at the end of this Alert.

GOVERNOR'S MAY REVISED BUDGET A DISASTER FOR SENIORS and PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

SPEAK OUT – TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE

Call Governor Newsom at 916-445-2841

The Governor released his revised budget for 2020-2021 and it is devastating. We knew cuts would be massive, but the focus of many of the cuts are to programs that serve seniors and people with disabilities. In this time of COVID, these programs, though small in the scheme of things, are truly lifesaving. Programs like the MSSP and Community Based Adult Services, In home supportive services, Independent Living Resource Centers, and more. – all keep people out of institutions WHERE PEOPLE ARE DYING! Adding insult to injury, the Administration issued Crisis Care Guidelines which put seniors and people with disabilities at the bottom of the list when limited resources are available. The proposals in the Governor's budget, if passed, will hurt and possibly kill people. We must fight back.

Please call the Governor's office at 916-445-2841.

TALKING POINTS: THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS THAT KEEP SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SAFE AND SUPPORTED – AND OUT OF INSTITUTIONS. IT IS HEARTLESS, AGEIST, AND ABLEIST. RESCIND CUTS TO SENIOR AND DISABLED PROGRAMS. LET'S BUILD A BUDGET THAT SUPPORTS OUR MOST FRAIL AND VULNERABLE – NOT ONE THAT KILLS US.

ASSEMBLY AND SENATE BUDGET HEARINGS STARTING MONDAY

SPEAK OUT AGAINST BUDGET CUTS

Our State legislators need to be alerted to these devastating budget cuts in the Governors' revised budget as well. The first hearing is this Monday, May 18th at 1pm. You can listen in and sign up to speak against these cuts over the phone. Please call in and urge the Assembly to vote NO to any cuts to programs that keep seniors and people with disabilities safe, out of institutions, and covid free. Here is the information for Monday's hearing:

Monday, May 18, 2020

**Budget Subcommittee No. 1 On
Health And Human Services**

ARAMBULA, Chair

**1 p.m. or upon adjournment of Revenue and Taxation Committee - State Capitol,
Room 4202**

([Listen to this hearing](#))

**Committees: [Budget](#), [Subcommittee No. 1 on Health and Human Services](#)
[Show Details](#)**

Please participate in the other budget meetings scheduled in the Assembly and Senate over the next two weeks. The budget hearing schedule can be found at:

<https://www.google.com/search?q=california+assembly+and+senate+budget+hearings>.

Finally, call your state Senator and Assemblymember. Thank them for participating in our May 15th Lobby Day and ask them to stand up for seniors during the budget process. To reach our legislators, go to:

[http://www.legislature.ca.gov/your legislator.html](http://www.legislature.ca.gov/your_legislator.html)

Get Social With CARA. Did you know that CARA is on Facebook? Learn about our local activities and meetings, town halls and about other news affecting retirees. **[Be sure to like our CARA Facebook page here.](#)** Make sure your friends and family like this page too. Help retirees build power by liking CARA's Facebook page. Every like and share helps spread our message.

You can contact CARA at:

MAIN OFFICE: 600 Grand Ave. #410, Oakland, CA 94610 / 510-663-4086
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