



February 26, 2021

Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 1054 (Arambula)– SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Arambula,

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) writes in strong support of Assembly Bill 1054 which would establish the Skilled Nursing Facility feeding assistant training program. CARA is California's largest grassroots advocacy organization, representing over 1 million members through our 300+ affiliated organizations.

AB 1054 would authorize a skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility to adopt a feeding assistant training program and would require the CA Dept. of Public Health to approve a feeding assistant training program for facilities to adopt that meets specified requirements. The bill would require skilled nursing facilities and intermediate care facilities that utilize feeding assistants to comply with certain requirements, including that a feeding assistant only provide dining assistance for residents who have no complicated feeding problems. The bill would also specify that hours of care provided by a feeding assistant may be used in determining whether a facility satisfies direct care service hour, or nursing hour, per patient day requirements.

Over the past year during the Covid-19 pandemic, many problems occurring in nursing homes and other care facilities – problems that have been with us for some time – have come to light. One essential service that must be provided – by request of the resident – is feeding assistance. However many staff members in these facilities do not have proper training, causing unnecessary harm to the residents. These facilities must be required to properly train their staff – so that they, and the residents they serve, receive the best care possible.

For all these reasons, CARA urges support of AB 1054.

Sincerely,

Hene Kelly, CARA Legislative Director