



The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
California State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 665 (Garcia)

March 2, 2021

Dear Assemblymember Garcia,

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) writes in strong support of AB 665, which would require residential care facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) with internet access to provide one common internet access tool for residents. CARA is California's largest grassroots advocacy organization, representing over 1 million members through our 300+ affiliated organizations.

AB 665 would add to basic services required for a licensed residential care facility for the elderly, by requiring a facility that has internet service for business administration or entertainment purposes to provide at least one common internet access tool with microphone and camera functions, to enable residents to participate in virtual visits or meetings in a manner that allows for discussion of personal or confidential information.

California has a huge digital divide. Seniors are among the groups that suffer from lack of internet, lack of devices, and lack of training to use these tools. This further isolates seniors from the information, care, and connections so desperately needed to stay safe, reduce isolation and loneliness, and continue to engage in their communities. Residential care facilities must provide access to the technology and tools needed to stay engaged while they live within these care facilities.

For all these reasons, CARA urges support of AB 665.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hene Kelly".

Hene Kelly
CARA Legislative Director
415-533-5233