



The Honorable Rudy Salas  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

February 28, 2021

RE: AB 383 (Salas)– SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Salas,

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) writes in strong support of Assembly Bill 383, which would establish an Older Adult Mental Health Services Administrator with the Dept. of Health Care Services. CARA is California's largest grassroots advocacy organization, representing over 1 million members through our 300+ affiliated organizations.

AB 383 would establish within the State Department of Health Care Services an Older Adult Mental Health Services Administrator to oversee mental health services for older adults. The bill would require that position to be funded with administrative funds from the Mental Health Services Fund. AB 383 would prescribe the functions of the administrator and its responsibilities, including, but not limited to, developing outcome and related indicators for older adults for the purpose of assessing the status of mental health services for older adults, monitoring the quality of programs for those adults, and guiding decision-making on how to improve those services. Finally, AB 383 would require the administrator to receive data from other state agencies and departments to implement these provisions, subject to existing state or federal confidentiality requirements.

With Californians over the age of 60 becoming the fastest growing part of California's population over the next 10 years, and with the very specific mental health issues facing this older demographic, it is incumbent upon the State to establish programs to serve this very large and growing population.

For all these reasons, CARA thanks you for authoring this important legislation. CARA urges support of AB 383.

Sincerely,

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

**Hene Kelly**  
**CARA Legislative Director**  
**425-533-5244**

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