



The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

February 28, 2021

RE: AB 540 (Petrie-Norris)– SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Petrie-Norris,

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) writes in strong support of Assembly Bill 540, which would exempt PACE beneficiaries from active or passive enrollment in Medi-Cal managed care and ensure PACE is presented as an enrollment option. CARA is California's largest grassroots advocacy organization, representing over 1 million members through our 300+ affiliated organizations.

AB 540 would exempt a beneficiary who is enrolled in a PACE organization with a contract with the department from mandatory or passive enrollment in a Medi-Cal managed care plan. The bill would require, in areas where a PACE plan is available, that the PACE plan be presented as an enrollment option in the same manner as other managed care plan options, as specified. The bill would require the department to establish an auto-referral system to refer to PACE organizations beneficiaries who appear to be eligible for PACE, based on various criteria, including residence, as specified. The bill would also require, among other things, in areas where a PACE plan is available, that PACE be identified and presented as a Medicare plan option, as specified.

PACE programs allow participants to live in the communities and receive all of the health care and other services at a certified center, where not only services, but also nutrition, and socialization are available. Yet, often, PACE is not offered as an option to eligible beneficiaries and should be.

For all these reasons, CARA urges support of AB 540. CARA looks forward to working with you on its passage.

Sincerely,

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

Hene Kelly
CARA Legislative Director
\$15-533-5244

CARA/ 600 Grand Ave. #410/ Oakland, CA 94610/ 510-663-4086/ www.californialliance.org