



The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

February 28, 2021

RE: AB 695 (Arambula) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Arambula,

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) writes in strong support of AB 695, to expand the Home Safe program, lower the age to 60 for Adult Protective Services and increase funding for APS and Home Safe.

CARA is California's largest grassroots advocacy organization, representing over 1 million members through our 300+ affiliated organizations. CARA believes that as homelessness increases among older adults as well as the number of seniors impacted by mental illness, housing and services are critical to support this growing population.

AB would provide homeless prevention and longer term housing assistance and support through the Home Safe Program. The bill would authorize a county that receives grant funds under the Home Safe Program to, as part of providing case management services to elder or dependent adults who require adult protective services, provide housing assistance to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. If an elder or dependent adult comes to the attention of adult protective services because they are homeless, and an investigation indicates that they are homeless because they have a serious mental illness or substance use disorder, the bill would require the county to refer the adult to the appropriate state or local agency to receive services and supports. By imposing additional duties on counties in the administration of their adult protective services programs, AB 695 would impose a state-mandated local program.

The bill would also require the department to convene a workgroup to develop recommendations to create or establish a statewide adult protective services case management or data warehouse system and would establish the Adult Protective Services FAST/Forensic Center Grant Program, to be administered by the department, for the purpose of awarding grants to counties to create, enhance, and maintain a FAST or forensic center.

For all these reasons, CARA urges support of AB 695. We thank you for authoring this bill and we look forward to working with you on its passage.

Sincerely,

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

Hene Kelly  
CARA Legislative Director  
415-533-5244

CARA/ 600 Grand Ave. #410/ Oakland, CA 94610/ 510-663-4086/ [www.californialliance.org](http://www.californialliance.org)