



Assemblymember Jim Frazier  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

February 28, 2021

RE: AB 98 (Frazier)– SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Frazier,

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) writes in strong support of Assembly Bill 98, which establishes a pilot program in 3 counties for reuse and redistribution of durable medical equipment and home health supplies. CARA is California's largest grassroots advocacy organization, representing over 1 million members through our 300+ affiliated organizations.

This bill would require the CA Department of Aging to establish a comprehensive 3-year pilot program in the Counties of Contra Costa, Napa, and Solano to facilitate the reuse and redistribution of durable medical equipment and other home health supplies. The bill would require the department to contract in each county with a local nonprofit agency to oversee the program and would require the contracting nonprofit agency to, at a minimum, develop a computerized system to track the inventory of equipment and supplies available for reuse and redistribution and organize pickup and delivery of equipment and supplies.

Currently, most seniors and people with disabilities in need of durable medical equipment and supplies must purchase these supplies out of their own pocket – as Medicare does not cover most of these expenses. These costs can be prohibitive, and many choose to go without rather than having to choose between paying rent, food, etc. Additionally, many of these supplies and equipment are in perfectly good condition or unused or unopened once a previous person is no longer in need of them. Rather than these going in the garbage, it would be much better to recycle and reuse these supplies, once they have been inspected, cleaned and disinfected, and confirmed to be in safe working condition.

For all these reasons, CARA urges support of AB 98. 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  
\$15-533-5244

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