



Senator Melissa Hurtado
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SB 648 (Hurtado) SUPPORT

March 1, 2021

Dear Senator Hurtado,

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) writes in strong support of Senate Bill 648, which would make the community care transitions program permanent and reduce the time needed to have resided in a Skilled Nursing Facility to 60 days, even after COVID. CARA is California's largest grassroots advocacy organization, representing over 1 million members through our 300+ affiliated organizations.

SB 648 allows licensed Adult Residential Facilities (ARFs) and Residential Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs) where more than 75 percent of residents receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and the California State Supplementary Payment (SSP) to utilize the IHSS program. IHSS would provide up to 60 hours of caregiving assistance per week. Recipient facilities will be required to reinvest their salary savings in facility maintenance, programming for residents or enhancing their staffing.

More than 200,000 Californians living in an ARF or RCFE depend on these facilities to provide 24-hour care and assistance for essential daily activities such as bathing, eating and transportation to medical appointments. Due to low reimbursement rates, many facilities are unwilling to take residents who receive SSI/SSP, potentially leaving some of the most vulnerable seniors without housing and care. In the past year, the capacity of SSI/SSP recipients to reside in ARFs and RCFEs has declined by about 2,000 and the number of low-income individuals who reside at ARFs and RCFEs has declined almost by 1,000.

For all these reasons, CARA urges support of SB 648. 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