



**The Honorable Buffy Wicks
California State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814**

RE: AB 1041 (Wicks) SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Wicks,

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) writes in strong support of Assembly Bill 1041 would expand the definition of family member for purposes of worker protection and paid family leave program. CARA is California's largest grassroots advocacy organization, representing over 1 million members through our 300+ affiliated organizations.

Californians have learned through this pandemic that it takes many hands to help those most in need. Family members are often the go-to caregivers, but many people no longer have family close enough to care for them. CARA believes that California must expand the definition of eligible caregivers to recognize the many people who are providing essential care to those most in need.

AB 1041 would expand eligibility for benefits under the paid family leave program to include individuals who take time off work to care for a seriously ill individual related by blood or whose close association with the employee is the equivalent of a family relationship. The bill would make conforming changes to the definitions of the terms "family care leave" and "family member."

For all these reasons, CARA urges support of AB 1041. 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**