



March 1, 2021

Senator Monique Limon
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SB 48 (Limon)– SUPPORT

Dear Senator Limon,

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) writes in strong support of Senate Bill 48 which would require professional training to create dementia-friendly workforce. CARA is California's largest grassroots advocacy organization, representing over 1 million members through our 300+ affiliated organizations.

Existing law, the Medical Practice Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of physicians and surgeons by the Medical Board of California. Under the act, a physician and surgeon is required to demonstrate satisfaction of continuing education requirements, including, for certain general internists and family physicians, prescribed hours in a course in the field of geriatric medicine for the care of older patients.

SB 48 would require all general internists and family physicians to complete at least 4 hours of mandatory continuing education on the special care needs of patients with dementia. This bill would also require the PAB to adopt regulations to require each person renewing their license, as a condition of license renewal, to complete at least 10 hours of continuing education on the special care needs of patients with dementia.

The Clinical Social Worker Practice Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of clinical social workers by the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS). The act prohibits renewal of a license unless the applicant certifies to the BBS that the license has completed not less than 36 hours of approved continuing education in, or relevant to, the field of social work in the preceding 2 years.

SB 48 would require the BBS, by regulation, to require the continuing education requirement under the act to include at least 4 hours of continuing education on the special care needs of patients with dementia. By expanding the scope of the crime of perjury, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Finally, existing law authorizes the establishment of diagnostic and treatment centers for Alzheimer's disease. Existing law also establishes a grant program for the purpose of research into the causes, treatment, cure, strategies for coping with, prevention, incidence, and prevalence of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. T

SB 48 would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to ensure that individuals living with dementia and Alzheimer's disease receive a timely diagnosis through, among other things, the training of medical providers and leveraging available federal resources.

As our state ages, and incidents of dementia and Alzheimers increase exponentially, we must insure that our medical personnel and social workers have training to identify and address these challenges.

For all these reasons, CARA urges support of SB 48.

Sincerely,

Hene Kelly, CARA Legislative Director

