



The Honorable Dr. Richard Pan, Chair
Senate Health Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

March 4, 2021

RE: SB 281 (Dodd) – California Community Transitions
SUPPORT

Dear Senator Pan,

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) strongly supports SB 281, (Dodd), regarding the California Community Transitions (CCT) Program. CARA is California's largest grassroots Senior and Disability advocacy organization representing 1 million seniors and their families strongly supports AB 1400.

CCT helps transition seniors and people with disabilities that want to move home from nursing facilities and other institutions. The program is authorized by the federal Money Follows the Person demonstration project to transition people receiving Medicaid-funded long-term services and supports (LTSS) in institutional settings back into community settings. This bill would conform SB 214 (Dodd 2020) to recent changes in federal eligibility that reduced the length of stay requirement in an inpatient facility from 90 to 60 days and makes the program a state funded Medi-Cal benefit if federal funding is terminated.

CCT transition teams work with individuals to develop a safe transition plan that identifies the housing and community supports necessary for a successful transition, including help with activities of daily living, home modifications, and other supports like meal delivery. CCT provides savings for the State because community living is more cost effective than institutional care. Studies have established that the CCT participants were less likely than a comparison group to be readmitted to an institution in the year after transition. Quality of life surveys showed improvement in satisfaction with care and living arrangements, and fewer reports of barriers to community integration. The CCT program provides the necessary infrastructure to transition individuals during this time of the COVID pandemic. The program was essential before COVID and will be just as needed post-COVID to help seniors and people with disabilities live in the setting of their choice.

For these reasons, CARA urges an "aye" vote on SB 281 when it comes before your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hene Kelly".

Hene Kelly
CARA Legislative Director
415-533-5244

cc: Members and consultants, Senate Health Committee & Senator Dodd