

CARA Alert – May 11, 2021

A publication of the California Alliance for Retired Americans

May is Older Americans Month – Respect our Elders!

CARA LOBBY DAY ON MAY 21ST

BRIEFING FOR LOBBY DAY PARTICIPANTS ON MAY 14TH AT NOON

[REGISTER HERE](#)

This briefing is for everyone who has signed up to participate in one of the 120 legislative visits that CARA is coordinating on May 21st. We will review the bills that CARA will be presenting, the best format for your meetings, and answer any questions you have before our May 21st lobby day. Even if you are not attending a legislative meeting, this is a chance to learn more about CARA's priority bills for 2021. Here are CARA's priority bills for the 2021-22 legislative session.

2021 PRIORITY BILLS

AB 695	Arambula	Expands HomeSafe program, lowers age to 60 for Adult Protective Services (APS), increases funding for HomeSAFE and APS.
SB 260	Weiner	Requires major corporations who do business in California and make over \$1 billion annually to publicly disclose their full carbon footprint in a way that is understandable and accessible to the public.
SB 650	Stern	Skilled Nursing Facility operators must file consolidated financial report including payments to self-owned "related parties", where profits are hidden.

2021 - 22 YEAR PRIORITY BILLS

AB 1400	Kalra	Guaranteed health plan covering all in California, regardless of income, employment, immigration status, race or gender, rities while eliminating co-pays, deductibles, premiums and out of pocket costs. Creates comprehensive benefit plan and expands coverage to include vision, dental, hearing, LONG TERM SUPPORTS AND SERVICES
AB 1502	Muratsuchi	In an age of nursing home consolidation and monopolization, requires nursing homes that change hands fix prior violations before being granted new licenses.
SB 515/ AB 911	Pan Nazarian	Identical bills. Will create a framework and oversight for the creation of an LTSS benefit.

WE WON \$600 FOR SSI RECIPIENTS - GOLDEN STATE STIMULUS NOW IT'S TIME TO INCREASE THE SSI BASE GRANT

When Governor Newsom announced an additional \$600 for low income Californians through a one-time Golden State Stimulus package, SSI recipients were not included. With the Californians 4 SSI Coalition, we were able to add SSI into the stimulus recipients. Final details are being worked out, and soon Californians lowest income residents will be eligible for this additional payment – on top of the federal stimulus.

But our long-time goal to raise the California base grant for SSI recipients has not been met. These low-income residents live below the poverty line, and deserve to have their base grant permanently raised to help meet the cost of living challenges in CA. Please sign the petition below to urge Governor Newsom and our State Legislatures to include this increase for SSI!

<https://cqrcengage.com/endhunger/app/sign-petition?0&engagementId=511593>

HEALTH CARE IS A HUMAN RIGHT!!!

As many of us have heard, AB 1400 (Kalra), the CA Guaranteed Health Care Act (CALCare) has been pulled back and will not be considered this year. It is now a 2 year bill and may be amended and heard next year. In the meantime, there is still so much we can do to move Guaranteed Health Care for All forward in California. Our first step is getting Governor Newsom to request a waiver for California to develop a state-based system and bring federal resources into California. The Governor must lead on this issue if we hope to win.

SIGN THE PETITION TO GOVERNOR NEWSOM AND PASS IT ON!

<https://bit.ly/CARA-Healthcare>

Healthy CA Now is planning a big Zoom Rally on June 14th at 5:30pm and then a Rally and Car Caravan on June 15th from 11am-1pm in Sacramento (North Steps) to present the Governor with the petitions we have collected urging him to request the federal waiver from the Biden Administration. We will be sending out registration information for these events soon. If you are willing to be at the Rally (in person) or join the Car Caravan, please let us know – email cynthial.cara@gmail.com.

In addition to signing the petition, the Governor's Healthy CA Commission, which was created to help design a single financing system for California so that health care for all can become a reality, is reconvening on May 21st from 1pm-5pm. The agenda and zoom information will be posted 10 days in advance. Go to

www.chhs.ca.gov/healthycaforall/

A new statewide survey of 800 California likely voters shows that key Democratic constituencies would overwhelmingly support Gov. Gavin Newsom moving to advance

his long-declared support for a state Medicare for All healthcare system, particularly by renewing efforts to secure federal health care dollars to fund it.

Newsom won his campaign for governor based in part on his bold stance in support of Medicare for All. On his first day in office, he sought waivers from the Trump Administration to make available the federal dollars spent in California on Medicare, Medi-Cal, and other federal health programs to fund a state Medicare for All system.

With the recall election looming, Caregivers and Californians United Against the Recall of Governor Newsom, sponsored by the National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW), commissioned public opinion research among likely voters to determine whether pursuing this goal now would help or hurt Newsom. NUHW endorsed Newsom for governor in 2018 and was the first union to oppose the recall.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE HONORING NURSING HOME LIVES LOST – MAY 20TH

Please join in on "A National Day of Remembrance Honoring Nursing Home Lives Lost", Thursday, May 20, 2 to 3 pm (Pacific); an online event to honor the more than 182,000 nursing home lives lost to COVID-19. It will feature Senator Kirsten Gillibrand; testimonials from nursing home residents, staff, and families; interfaith clergy, including Reverend Lynn Casteel Harper from Riverside Church; National Medal of Arts recipient, Ralph Lemon; Age Wave CEO Ken Dychtwald; and Gray Panthers NYC President Jack Kupferman. Register here: <https://bit.ly/334tDr2>.

SAVE THE DATES/ AND REGISTER!!

Friday, June 11th at Noon – CARA Celebrates Pride Month – [register here](#)

Friday, June 25th at Noon – Emergency Preparedness: Wildfires, heat, water!!!!- [register here](#)

Tuesday Oct. 26th (10am-2pm) and Wednesday, Oct. 27th (10am – 12:30pm) – CARA Statewide Convention (Virtual) – more details to come!!!! **SAVE THE DATES**

Contact CARA:

MAIN OFFICE: 600 Grand Ave. #410, Oakland, CA 94610/ 510-663-4086 /
TOLLFREE 1-877-223-6107 / FAX: 510-663-4099/ www.californiaalliance.org

NORTH: 415-515-2156 / jreid.cara@gmail.com

CENTRAL VALLEY: 415-515-2156/ jreid.cara@gmail.com (Modesto – Fresno) 714-460-3542/ smeyer.cara@gmail.com for Bakersfield

SOUTH:

LA COUNTY: 917-424-3220/ jennichang.cara@gmail.com

ORANGE/SAN DIEGO/ INLAND EMPIRE: 714-460-3542/smeyer.cara@gmail.com