January 5th, 2022

The Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

CC: The Honorable Al Muratsuchi

RE: AB 1502 (Muratsuchi) The Nursing Home Ownership & Management Reform Act _ SUPPORT

Chair Wood,

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA), one of the state’s foremost grassroots senior and disability advocacy organizations, representing over 1 million Californians, supports AB 1502 (Muratsuchi) providing critical reforms to the ownership and management of skilled nursing facilities and respectfully requests your AYE vote.

AB 1502 (Muratsuchi) establishes much needed reforms to nursing home ownership by: strengthening CDPH’s authority to disqualify unfit owners and operators, affording the public greater transparency on pending change of ownership applications, and establishing suitability standards on the qualifications of owners and operators.

Seniors are among California’s fastest growing population, projected to eclipse 8 million or 20% of the state’s population by 2030. Many Seniors have and will continue to rely upon nursing homes as their primary resource for long term care services. Unfortunately, nursing home operators are able to own nursing homes without a fully completed license approval from CDPH and or continue to operate with denied licenses altogether. This staggering lack of enforcement coupled with the perilous conditions experienced in congregate living facilities (especially nursing homes) operating without full licensure contributed to COVID-19 outbreaks and additional adverse outcomes for this vulnerable population.

Affording Seniors viable resources to age with grace, dignity and independence - such as protecting/enhancing consumer choice - not only represent CARA's foundational principles but we believe will ensure a safer, more accessible and inclusive California for our aging community; AB 1502 (Muratsuchi) codifies these aspirations into law by protecting the health and safety of our seniors in nursing homes.

CARA respectfully urges your AYE vote on AB 1502 (Muratsuchi).

Sincerely,

Hene Kelly
Keith Umemoto
Chair, Legislative Committee
Co-Chair, Legislative Committee
California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA)
California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA)