

Lobby Day Prep Guide

Meeting Agenda + Roles + Talking Points



Meeting Agenda:

20-minutes (total) or less!

- Introductions - **Coordinator**
- Overview of Priority Bills (3) and Budget Asks (3) - **Coordinator**
- Educate the Legislator/Staffer on Priority Issues - **Team Member**
- Share a personal connection/story on one or more (time permitting) Priority issues - **Storyteller**
- Make the Ask: "Will you vote yes on AB/SB XXXX?" "Will you support or Budget ask for ()?" - **Nailer**
- Ask how CARA can support the Legislator on our Priority issues. Do they need more information/resources? - **Coordinator**
- Thank the Legislator/Staffer for joining our Lobby Day event. - **Coordinator**

Roles:

- **Coordinator:** Facilitates the meeting; introduces everyone and oversees the flow of conversation
- **Storyteller:** a Team member with a personal connection to one or more CARA priorities. Will provide a brief testimonial advocating for a priority bill/budget ask.
- **Nailer:** Asks the tough questions; will ensure the Legislator/Staffer provides a clear answer regarding their office's position/next steps on our priorities.

Talking Points:

Who We Are

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) is California's largest, grassroots senior advocacy organization, representing 1 million seniors through our 275+ affiliated organizations. We work on issues to improve the quality of life for seniors and their families in California. CARA has members in EVERY part of California, and we educate and engage them through our local CARA Action Teams (CATs), which meet on a regular basis to develop local strategies on our key issues. CARA also has a very active Legislative Committee that takes positions on important issues, and attends hearings and legislative meetings in the State Capitol.

May 20th – Statewide Senior Lobby Day

Today, CARA members are holding meetings with almost EVERY State Assembly member and Senator – virtually, by teleconference or zoom, as part of our **Statewide Senior Lobby Day** event. We want our elected officials to know that CARA really does have constituents in every legislative district who are concerned about the direction our state is going as it relates to the needs of seniors and people with disabilities – which are also the fastest growing demographic in our state. Our CARA Action Team (CAT) for the **AREA COVERED BY CAT** is coordinating this visit. Each visit is scheduled for 20 minutes.

Six CARA Priority Bills for May 20TH Lobby Day – TODAY WE WILL FOCUS ON 3

CARA takes positions on many bills throughout the legislative session. From those, we identify key priorities that match with the issues our members vote on at our annual convention. Today we would like to urge your support and assistance on the 6 bills we sent to you, but we will focus on three of them today

- **AB 1502 (Muratsuchi)** – Nursing Home Licenses
- **AB 1947 (Ting)**- Freedom from Hate Crimes
- **SJR 11 (Skinner)** – Resolution in support of Social Security 2100 Act – HR 5723

We would also like you to promote CARA's budget asks that are in the letter we provided to you along with the one pagers describing each of our priority bills. We will discuss the 3 top budget asks today

BRIEF TALKING POINTS ON OUR PRIORITY BILLS

AB 1502 (MURATSUCHI) – NURSING HOME LICENSES

In an age of nursing home consolidation and monopolization, this bill will require nursing homes that change hands fix prior violations before being granted new licenses.

ASK: Will you support AB 1502 when it comes before you?

AB 1947 (TING) – FREEDOM FROM HATE CRIMES

This bill would require every law enforcement agency to adopt policies instructing officers on how to identify, respond to and report hate crimes. These agencies will also be required to submit their crime policies, brochures, and training schedules to the Department of Justice to ensure compliance with this new law. AB 1947 will keep Californians safer by enacting stronger training and reporting policies for law enforcement officers to identify and respond to hate crimes.

ASK: Will you support AB 1947 when it comes before you?

SJR 11 (SKINNER) – SOCIAL SECURITY RESOLUTION FOR HR5723

Urges the CA Legislature to support HR 5723 (Social Security 2100 Act), which will protect, improve and fund Social Security for current and future beneficiaries - and communicate with the CA Congressional Delegation to co-author and vote for this bill.

ASK: Will you support SJR 11 when it comes before you?



CARA BUDGET ASK

Given the challenges we all faced during the pandemic, especially older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income communities of color, we urge you to look at CARA's budget asks which we sent to you with the materials for today's meeting. Older adults are the fastest growing demographic in our State, and we must invest in the programs that will support us living independently and with dignity. We urge you to support all of CARA's budget asks, especially to:

- Increase the state portion of SSI/SSP and bring it fully back to 2008 levels (adjusted for inflation);
- Allocate \$5 million to further study how California can create and fund a universal long term supports and services (LTSS) benefit.
- Re-fund the In Home Supportive Services Advisory committees at \$56,000 per county/ per year.

Wrap Up of Meeting – by Coordinator

- Make sure the legislator/staff has responded to each of the Asks.
- If more information is requested, please assure them that we will follow up
- Ask if there are any final comments by CARA members or the legislator/staff.
- Thank them for their time today and end the call.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN CARA's VIRTUAL LOBBY DAY.

