

CARA 23-24' Priority Legislation

updated 4/18/23

Bill #	Name	Description
AJR 4 (Schiavo)	Medicare Protection Act of 2023	CARA SPONSOR: In 2022 the Biden Administration announced the launching of a newly rebranded Direct Contracting Model, ACO REACH, which adopted many problematic elements of its predecessor that incentivizes profiteering while auto aligning Traditional Medicare enrollees into the REACH program, placing their care into the hands of private health care corporations without their consent. This Resolution calls on the Biden Administration to abolish the ACO REACH program.
AB 751 (Schiavo)	Elder Abuse	CARA SPONSOR: This bill will codify existing law which will finally implement the Senior Disability and Justice Act of 2019 which stipulates the model Elder Abuse policies and trainings for Law Enforcement Agencies in California.
AB 449 (Ting)	Hate Crimes	CARA SPONSOR: 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.
SB 253 (Wiener)	Climate Corporate Data Accountability Act	CARA Support: This bill would require all US-based corporations with annual gross revenues of \$1 billion USD or greater that do business in California to publicly disclose their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory each year in a manner easily understandable and accessible to the people of California.

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Bill #	Name	Description
SB 770 (Wiener)	Unified Healthcare Financing	<p>CARA Support: This bill would provide concrete steps and establish a definitive timeline toward creating guaranteed, equitable, healthcare to all California residents that provides better care at less cost through unified public financing by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requiring the Secretary to submit a complete set of recommendations regarding the elements to be included in a formal waiver application, as specified, by no later than June 1, 2024;
SB 37 (Caballero)	Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities Housing Stability Act of 2023	<p>CARA Support: This bill would provide housing subsidies to older adults and adults with disabilities, who are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness. Grants will prioritize communities in which a high proportion of the renters face cost burdens.</p>
SB 278 (Dodd)	Holding Banks Accountable for Assisting Financial Scams Against Elder Californians	<p>CARA Support: This bill will clarify existing law to ensure that seniors and older adult victims of financial scams can hold negligent banks accountable for assisting in the financial exploitation of older Californians.</p>
AB 1672 (Haney)	IHSS Employer- Employee Relations Act	<p>CARA Support: This bill shifts collective bargaining for IHSS providers from the county-level to the state-level. This long overdue transition to statewide collective bargaining will substantially improve equity for IHSS providers and for the first time in program history, ensure caregivers are provided real opportunities to negotiate for livable wages, access to benefits, etc.</p>



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Bill #	Name	Description
AB 1286 (Haney)	Stop Dangerous Pharmacies Act	CARA Support: This bill will establish the first in the nation, mandatory reporting of medication errors to allow for robust evaluation of the causes of medication errors. This bill also gives licensed pharmacy staff autonomy over their working conditions so they can provide better patient care and services for Californians.
AB 540 (Wicks)	Social Service Transportation Improvement Act: Coordinated Transportation Service Agencies	CARA Support: This bill will establish a "Coordinated Transportation Service Agency" (CTSA) in all 58 California counties while respecting and supporting existing CTSA's. These CTSA's will enhance coordination, promote a more seamless rider experience while providing urgently needed improvements to accessible transportation programs.



AJR 4 (Schiavo)

Medicare Protection Act of 2023

What is AJR 4, and why do we need it?

Over 63 Million Americans - including nearly 6.6 Million Californians - receive health care coverage through Medicare, the federal health insurance program for the disabled and adults age 65 or older. Beneficiaries have the option of enrolling in “Traditional” Medicare (TM) through Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Outpatient Services) or they can enroll in a managed care plan, typically offered by private insurers, through Part C, also known as Medicare Advantage (MA). In 2020, via executive order, the Trump Administration established the Global and Professional Direct Contracting Model (GPDC) as a Medicare innovation pilot project to privatize Traditional Medicare. In 2022 the Biden Administration announced the launching of a newly rebranded Direct Contracting Model, ACO REACH, which adopted many problematic elements of its predecessor that incentivizes profiteering while auto aligning Traditional Medicare enrollees into the REACH program, placing their care into the hands of private health care corporations without their consent. **This Resolution calls on the Biden Administration to abolish the ACO REACH program.**

The Direct Contracting pilot (now ACO REACH) program was developed during the Trump Administration to further privatize Traditional Medicare utilizing many of the same elements as MA. Instead of paying providers directly for care, Medicare sends a payment to middlemen called Direct Contracting Entities (DCEs). **DCEs are then allowed to keep what they don't pay for in health services, up to 40% of the Medicare payment.** Additionally, Medicare auto-aligns beneficiaries into a DCE based on their relationship with a DCE-affiliated primary care provider **which can lead to millions of TM beneficiaries being automatically enrolled into a DCE without their full knowledge or consent.** In February of 2022, the Biden Administration announced the ACO REACH program, which officially launched Jan 1, 2023, as an attempt to rebrand Direct Contracting but maintained many of its dangerous elements.

In January of 2023, CMMI officials informed the CalPERS board “there will not be any more than 132 organizations in the model and most likely no more than 2.1 million beneficiaries.” While this is a positive development that indicates a temporary moratorium of the program's expansion, 2.1 million beneficiaries were automatically enrolled into a REACH entity without their full consent.

ACO REACH threatens the fundamental, consumer-directed, Traditional Medicare that currently serves over 3 million Californians who opted for TM over MA. REACH rescinds that choice by auto aligning TM beneficiaries into managed care systems (ACOs) with limited health networks who are incentivized to maximize profits by restricting care.

Where is AJR 4 in the legislative process?

AJR 4 is still advancing through the introductory processes and has not been formally assigned to a committee yet.



AJR 4 (Schiavo) Medicare Protection Act of 2023

What Can You Do to Help Pass AJR 4?

AJR 4, the Medicare Protection Act of 2023, has not been assigned to a committee at this time. While this resolution is still in the introductory phase, we ask that our partners, allies and interested organizations/individuals work with CARA to build the necessary support coalition to advance this important legislation. Please consider taking one or all of the actions listed below:

- Find your local Assemblymember: Use the lookup tool by clicking [HERE](#)
- Call your local Assemblymember and ask to speak with them about the Medicare Protection Act!
- Ask your organization to schedule a presentation by CARA about why seniors should support AJR 4
- Get your organization to write a letter of support. You can download CARA's letter as model when it is available (please check our website periodically for updates or contact our Co-Chairs). Send your letter to the Legislature using the "Position Letter Portal" (click [HERE](#)) at:
<https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

Have questions? Want to get more involved?

For more information on CARA's legislative advocacy please contact Hene Kelly or Keith Umemoto, CARA Legislative Committee Co-Chairs:

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AB 751 (Schiavo) Elder Abuse

What is AB 751, and why do we need it?

Older adults are among those most at risk for crime victimization, including sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, hate crimes motivated by bias against people with disabilities including disabilities caused by aging, and homicide. The obstacles to justice include a lack of reporting of these crimes to law enforcement agencies and the agencies' frequently inadequate response to the reports they do receive. "Increase prevention of elder abuse – both physical and financial" was the highest-ranked goal that California voters selected for the Master Plan for Aging in a 2019 survey.

Children and adults with disabilities are victimized by violent crime 3.5 times the rate of the general population. For those with cognitive disabilities (dementia, intellectual disabilities, and mental illness), the rate is more than 5.5 times higher. A 2012 survey of abuse victims with disabilities found that 52.8% of those who reported the abuse to police said that "nothing happened." Just 7.8% said a suspect was arrested.

SB 338 (Hueso) of 2019 spelled out a comprehensive policy for local law enforcement agencies training and guiding officers to handle these crimes. In 2022, California Legislative Counsel determined that later legislation made this policy mandatory on all agencies. AB 751 codifies that finding.

Where is AB 751 in the legislative process?

AB 751 PASSED the Assembly and is awaiting committee assignment in the State Senate.



AB 751 (Schiavo) Elder Abuse

What Can You Do to Help Pass AB 751?

AB 751 PASSED the Assembly and is awaiting committee assignment in the Senate. It will likely be referred to the **Senate Public Safety Committee** which is where we advise advocates to place calls to the Chair and members of the committee in addition to submitting letters of support to help advocate for its passage.

- Find your state representative: Use the lookup tool by clicking [HERE](#)
- Call your Senator and urge them to vote YES on AB 751
- Ask your organization to schedule a presentation by CARA about why seniors should support AB 751.
- Get your organization to write a letter of support. You can download CARA's letter as model (Click [HERE](#))
- Send your letter to the Legislature using the "Position Letter Portal" (click [HERE](#)) at: <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

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AB 449 (Ting) Hate Crimes: Law Enforcement Policies

What is AB 449, and why do we need it?

California and the United States are in the midst of a still-swelling wave of hate crimes that began in 2015. These hate crimes traumatize victims more than similar crimes committed exclusively for other motivations, and they shock and intimidate entire communities, making them co-victims.

Officers in agencies with inadequate policies, or no policies at all, are ill-equipped to deal with these hate crimes.

The California State Auditor in 2018 found that “law enforcement has not adequately identified, reported, or responded to hate crimes.” The audit report recommended that law enforcement agencies take serious steps to correct their serious failings.

AB 449 would carry out the auditor’s recommendations by **mandating that all law enforcement agencies adopt hate crime policies - by July 1, 2024 - that every officer in the state must know and follow.**

The bill would hold law enforcement agencies accountable by requiring them to submit their hate crime policies and training schedules to the state Department of Justice to be checked for compliance with state law and upon acceptance of those policies, post each law enforcement agency’s hate crimes policy on their respective internet website.

By finally requiring every law enforcement agency to adopt and follow a rigorous policy guiding officers in preventing and responding to these crimes, AB 449 will make a major contribution to protecting our communities and all Californians.

Where is AB 449 in the legislative process?

AB 449 will be heard in the **Assembly Appropriations Committee at hearing date and time to be determined.** To view the livestream click on the following link to the Committee's website: (Click [HERE](#))



AB 449 (Ting) Hate Crimes: Law Enforcement Policies

What Can You Do to Help Pass AB 449?

AB 449 has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee with a **hearing date and time to be determined**. Calls to the Chair and members of the committee in addition to letters of support will be pivotal to help advocate for its passage.

- Find your state representative: Use the lookup tool by clicking [HERE](#)
- Call your Assemblymember and urge them to vote YES on AB 449
- Ask your organization to schedule a presentation by CARA about why seniors should support AB 449
- Get your organization to write a letter of support. You can download CARA's letter as model (Click [HERE](#))
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SB 253 (Wiener) Corporate Climate Data Accountability Act

What is SB 253, and why do we need it?

SB 253 will require large corporations (\$1 billion or more annual revenues) doing business in California to reveal greenhouse gas emissions resulting from their operations, the activities of their electricity suppliers, and the activities of their employees and supply chains.

SB 253 will reveal corporate climate impact to the public that will, in turn, incentivize those businesses to control their emissions. Over the longer term, it will allow regulators to establish greenhouse gas emission goals for those firms.

American businesses are already doing this so it won't impose new and unattainable burdens on businesses. These large businesses can influence other businesses in their supply chains to minimize emissions as well. It applies to firms located everywhere in the USA so it will not incentivize businesses to leave California. This is a practical and useful measure that will help California to combat the grave danger posed by greenhouse gas emissions so CARA strongly supports passing it.

The America's Health Rankings United Health Foundation, Public Health Impact: Air Pollution, Annual Report 2017-2019 lists California as the "Least-healthy State in our union." The C2ES, Center For Climate And Energy Solutions, reported that in 2020, five of the six largest fires on record burned in California and Oregon. The Sacramento Bee (9/22/2020) said five of its largest wildfires in history occurred in 2020. Climate change has proven to be an increasingly crucial component in the duration and risk of wildfires. Covid-19 has exacerbated health risks resulting from wildfires, air pollution and corporate emissions, putting the growing population of individuals with respiratory and cardiovascular health concerns at a greater risk.

Where is SB 253 in the legislative process?

SB 253 passed the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and has been assigned to the **Senate Judiciary Committee** with a hearing date scheduled for April 18th at 1:30pm. To view the livestream on the Committee Website click [HERE](#)



SB 253 (Wiener) Corporate Climate Data Accountability Act

What Can You Do to Help Pass SB 253?

SB 253 has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee with a hearing date scheduled for April 18th at 1:30pm. Letters of support in addition to calls to the Chair and members serving on the committee will be instrumental to help advance the bill.

- Find your local state representatives: click [HERE](#)
- Ask your organization to schedule a presentation by CARA about why seniors should support SB 253.
- Get your organization to write a letter of support for SB 253. You can download CARA's letter as model (click [HERE](#)).
- Send your letter to the Legislature using the "Position Letter Portal" (click [HERE](#)) at: <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

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SB 770 (Wiener) Unified Healthcare Financing

What is SB 770, and why do we need it?

SB 770 (Wiener), provides concrete steps and establishes a definitive timeline toward creating guaranteed, equitable, healthcare to all California residents that provides better care at less cost through unified public financing.

While most of California's seniors (over six million) are mostly on Medicare and MediCal, we continue to experience real harm from the fragmentation and inequities of the current healthcare system. Our members who live in rural communities cannot get a timely appointment due to the physician shortage, and the private hospital industry is closing or moving to more profitable markets, leaving patients without local hospitals.

Our children and grandchildren continue to bear the escalating cost of healthcare as these expenditures bite into their paychecks - thanks to decades of wage stagnation coupled with rising inflation - and household budgets. Patients experience discrimination and a lack of culturally competent caregiving. These shortcomings result in severe and sometimes lethal gaps in medically necessary health coverage and disproportionately impact historically and systematically marginalized groups.

We continue to support healthcare coverage expansions and financial assistance for California residents to access health services, but disparities and gaps remain as revealed during the on-going COVID pandemic. We need a comprehensive, systemic fix.

SB 770 makes viable the systemic change we need by establishing a specific statutory pathway for pursuit of guaranteed healthcare for all in California.

Where is SB 770 in the legislative process?

SB 770 will be heard in the Senate Health Committee on April 19th at 1:30pm. To view the livestream click on the following link to the Committee's website: (Click [HERE](#))



SB 770 (Wiener) Unified Healthcare Financing

What Can You Do to Help Pass SB 770?

SB 770 has been referred to the Senate Health Committee with a **hearing date scheduled for April 19th at 1:30pm**. Calls to the Chair and members of the committee in addition to letters of support will be pivotal to help advocate for its passage.

- Find your state representative: Use the lookup tool by clicking [HERE](#)
- Call your Senator and urge them to vote YES on SB 770
- Ask your organization to schedule a presentation by CARA about why seniors should support SB 770
- Get your organization to write a letter of support. You can download CARA's letter as model (Click [HERE](#)).
- Send your letter to the Legislature using the "Position Letter Portal" (click [HERE](#)) at: <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

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SB 37 (Caballero) Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities Housing Stability Act of 2023

What is SB 37, and why do we need it?

SB 37 (Caballero), which seeks to provide housing subsidies to older adults and adults with disabilities, who are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Older adults are among those most at risk for crime victimization, including sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, homicide and hate crimes motivated by bias against people with disabilities including disabilities caused by aging. Being homeless adds to their vulnerability. Older Californians or those with disabilities, on inadequate fixed incomes such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), are unable to cover the rapidly rising rents. It has been reported that the fastest growing homeless population in California is those 75 years of age and older. It has been estimated that for older Californians (at least 65 years of age) homelessness will triple between 2017 and 2030. What we are seeing will only get worse unless something is done. People with disabilities comprise approximately 43% of those experiencing homelessness, and African American households are more than five times as likely to experience homelessness when compared to the general California population.

SB 37 would create a program that provides a rent subsidy targeted to those older adults and adults with disabilities who are homeless or are at high risk of experiencing homelessness. The bill will establish OAADHSA within the department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to administer and offer competitive grants to nonprofit organizations, continuums of care, and other organizations. HCD will select grantees with the resources, expertise, and cultural specificity to provide assistance to households experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Grants will prioritize communities in which a high proportion of the renters face cost burdens.

Grantees will provide subsidies to help older adults and adults with disabilities remain housed, with subsidies covering the difference between 30% of a person's household income and the unit's reasonable rent. Such subsidies will likely prevent and end homelessness for thousands of older and disabled adults

Where is SB 37 in the legislative process?

SB 37 will be heard in the **Senate Human Services Committee on April 24th following the adjournment of the floor session**. To view the livestream, click on the following link from the Committee's website: (Click [HERE](#))



SB 37 (Caballero) Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities Housing Stability Act of 2023

What Can You Do to Help Pass SB 37?

SB 37 has been referred to the Senate Health Committee with a **hearing date scheduled for April 24th following the adjournment of the floor session**. Calls to the Chair and members of the committee in addition to letters of support will be pivotal to help advocate for its passage.

- Find your state representative: Use the lookup tool by clicking [HERE](#)
- Call your Senator and urge them to vote YES on SB 37
- Ask your organization to schedule a presentation by CARA about why seniors should support SB 37
- Get your organization to write a letter of support. You can download CARA's letter as model (Click [HERE](#)).
- Send your letter to the Legislature using the "Position Letter Portal" (Click [HERE](#)) at: <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

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SB 278 (Dodd) Holding Banks Accountable for Assisting Financial Scams Against Elder Californians

What is SB 278, and why do we need it?

SB 278 (Dodd) clarifies existing law to ensure that seniors and older adult victims of financial scams can hold negligent banks accountable for assisting in the financial exploitation of older Californians.

Financial scams against seniors and older adults have been getting worse in California. Too often banks turn a blind eye while scammers rob older Californians of their life savings. Often called the “crime of the 21st Century” based on our aging population, financial scams have reached the epidemic level, with estimates of annual economic losses of \$3 billion dollars. Victims come from all socioeconomic backgrounds. This form of financial exploitation robs victims of their resources, dignity, and quality of life.

As mandated reporters, banks, credit unions, and other financial institutions are uniquely positioned to detect when a customer might be the victim of a scam or other financial abuse – and take action to protect elders from the devastating loss of their life savings. Unfortunately, the language of California’s current financial elder abuse statute (Welfare & Institutions Code section 15610.30) is unclear. As a result, recent court rulings are in conflict with the law and some federal courts have set an impossible standard of proof required to hold banks accountable for assisting scammers. By adding a simple clarification to existing law, SB 278 will assure justice for the countless elderly victims of financial scams whose banks should have protected them.

Where is SB 278 in the legislative process?

SB 278 will be heard in the **Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee on April 19th at 1:30pm**. To view the livestream, click on the following link from the Committee's website: (Click [HERE](#))

CARA / 1675 7th St. PO Box 23754 / Oakland, CA 94623 / 510-662-4086 /
www.californiaalliance.org



SB 278 (Dodd) Holding Banks Accountable for Assisting Financial Scams Against Elder Californians

What Can You Do to Help Pass SB 278?

SB 278 has been referred to the **Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee** with a **hearing date scheduled for April 19th at 1:30pm**. Calls to the Chair and members of the committee in addition to letters of support will be pivotal to help advocate for its passage.

- Find your state representative: Use the lookup tool by clicking [HERE](#)
- Call your Senator and urge them to vote YES on SB 278
- Ask your organization to schedule a presentation by CARA about why seniors should support SB 278
- Get your organization to write a letter of support. You can download CARA's letter as model (Click [HERE](#)).
- Send your letter to the Legislature using the "Position Letter Portal" (Click [HERE](#)) at: <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

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SB 1672 (Haney) IHSS Employer-Employee Relations Act

What is AB 1672, and why do we need it?

AB 1672 (Haney) shifts collective bargaining for IHSS providers from the county-level to the state-level. This long overdue transition to statewide collective bargaining will substantially improve equity for IHSS providers and for the first time in program history, ensure caregivers are provided real opportunities to negotiate for livable wages, access to benefits, etc.

The IHSS program is designed to allow low-income older adults and individuals living with a disability to receive assistance with their care and activities of daily living while remaining in the comfort of their home. The IHSS program currently employs just over 600,000 IHSS providers and serves over 690,000 recipients. However, the demand for long-term care is expected to grow drastically over the next decade as the population of older adults increases.

Investing in IHSS providers not only help prepare California for the massive demographic shift in 2030, where older adults and seniors will comprise 25% of the state's population, but will also drive local economic growth as caregivers typically spend their money in the communities where they live and serve their clients.

Furthermore, IHSS is quintessential to California's spectrum of LTSS programs and services. As the income barriers for IHSS eligibility are slowly sunsetted (like the minimum asset limit, for example), more Californians will become eligible and ultimately enroll in IHSS, which is why it is vital that the Legislature take the necessary steps to support this underpaid and undervalued workforce by elevating collective bargaining to state-level.

Where is AB 1672 in the legislative process?

AB 1672 will be heard in the **Assembly Appropriations Committee** at a time and date to be determined. To view the livestream, click on the following link from the Committee's website: (Click [HERE](#))



SB 1672 (Haney) IHSS Employer-Employee Relations Act

What Can You Do to Help Pass AB 1672?

AB 1672 will be heard in the **Assembly Appropriations Committee**. Calls to the Chair and members of the committee in addition to letters of support will be pivotal to help advocate for its passage.

- Find your state representative: Use the lookup tool by clicking [HERE](#)
- Call your Assemblymember and urge them to vote YES on AB 1672
- Ask your organization to schedule a presentation by CARA about why seniors should support AB 1672
- Get your organization to write a letter of support. You can download CARA's letter as model (Click [HERE](#)).
- Send your letter to the Legislature using the "Position Letter Portal" (Click [HERE](#)) at: <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

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AB 1286 (Haney) Stop Dangerous Pharmacies Act

What is AB 1286, and why do we need it?

AB 1286 (Haney) would allow specially-trained pharmacy technicians to perform tasks that pharmacists are now required to perform. Additionally, this bill would allow pharmacists more time for reducing the incidence of dangerous medication errors and for such duties as essential consultation on patients' prescriptions.

A recent survey of over 4,000 pharmacists conducted by the California Board of Pharmacy shows that medication errors are particularly high in chain drug stores. For example, only 15% of chain drug store survey informants could report fewer than one error a month and 25% of chain drug store informants reported 3-5 medication errors/month. According to the survey, over half the errors in chain stores involved incorrect directions; nearly half also involved incorrect strength. Further, the survey shows that over three quarters of chain store pharmacists do not have time to adequately screen patients before immunizations. The survey indicated that this level of chain store medication error is linked to inadequate time for pharmacists to perform key duties.

The survey also showed that five-sixths of chain store pharmacists reported that they did not have enough time for needed patient consultations while dispensing medicines. Pharmacists are professionals trained to act as a backstop against prescribing errors. They are in a unique position to detect the risks of interactions between prescribed and non-prescribed medications. Pharmacists can also note adverse reactions and medication complications that prescribers may have missed.

Pharmacists should have sufficient time to dispense medicines more safely and to perform their vital consultation duties. Licensed pharmacy technicians with proper training should help them get more of this time. Lives, particularly the lives of seniors, would be saved from medication errors and inadequate counseling.

Where is AB 1286 in the legislative process?

AB 1286 was assigned to the **Assembly Business and Professions committee** with a hearing date scheduled for Tuesday, April 18th at 9am. You can view the livestream of the hearing on the Committee Website (Click [HERE](#))



AB 1286 (Haney) Stop Dangerous Pharmacies Act

What Can You Do to Help Pass AB 1286?

AB 1286 was assigned to the **Assembly Business and Professions committee** and will be heard on April 18th at 9am. Calls to the Chair and members of this committee in addition to letters of support will be pivotal to help advocate for its passage.

- Find your state representative: Use the lookup tool by clicking [HERE](#)
- Call your Assemblymember and urge them to vote YES on AB 1286
- Ask your organization to schedule a presentation by CARA about why seniors should support AB 540
- Get your organization to write a letter of support. You can download CARA's letter as model (Click [HERE](#)).
- Send your letter to the Legislature using the "Position Letter Portal" (Click [HERE](#)) at: <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

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AB 540 (Wicks) Social Service Transportation Improvement Act: Coordinated Transportation Service Agencies

What is AB 540, and why do we need it?

AB 540 (Wicks) expands transportation options and combats social isolation for older adults and seniors by establishing a "Coordinated Transportation Service Agency" (CTSA) in all 58 California counties while respecting and supporting existing CTSA's. Additionally, this bill expands the authority of the CTSA's to facilitate integrating the needs of seniors and the disabled into public policy and investment processes, including engagement in capital improvement program review, general plan development, transit stop access plans and more.

Older adults (age 60 to 64) and seniors (age 65 and up) are the fastest growing demographic in California. By 2030, at least 25%, nearly 8 million Californians, will be older adults and seniors. Moreover, the suburban and rural communities, where many of California's seniors reside, have struggled to integrate access to accessible transportation (AT) and Paratransit Services as a result of continual underfunding from the state and local governments.

AT and Paratransit services are vital for older adults, seniors and people with disabilities as they provide a means of transportation that incorporate special accommodations and services to ensure their riders can travel safely with the proper assistance.

While other sectors of California's transportation system regularly benefit from increased funding and improved policies, AT services have not been meaningfully updated since they were initially set up in 1979.

California Transportation Service Agencies is the ideal mechanism to enhance the AT and Paratransit systems as they promote the provisions of coordinated accessible transportation services in each county. AB 540 will implement CTSA's in each California county to finally address the infrastructure gaps in the accessible transit system.

Where is AB 540 in the legislative process?

AB 540 was jointly assigned to the **Assembly Transportation committee** and the **Assembly Rev and Tax committee** with no hearing dates scheduled at this time.



AB 540 (Wicks) Social Service Transportation Improvement Act: Coordinated Transportation Service Agencies

What Can You Do to Help Pass AB 540?

AB 540 was jointly assigned to **Assembly Transportation and Assembly Rev and Tax**; however, no hearing dates have been scheduled yet. Calls to the Chair and members of these committee in addition to letters of support will be pivotal to help advocate for its passage.

- Find your state representative: Use the lookup tool by clicking [HERE](#)
- Call your Assemblymember and urge them to vote YES on AB 540
- Ask your organization to schedule a presentation by CARA about why seniors should support AB 540
- Get your organization to write a letter of support. You can download CARA's letter as model (Click [HERE](#)).
- Send your letter to the Legislature using the "Position Letter Portal" (Click [HERE](#)) at: <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

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