

BILL LIST and OUTCOMES – 2016

The Senior Services Coalition identified and followed numerous bills in California’s 2016 legislative session. Below is a summary of key bills and what happened to them:

Bill/Author	Desc	Outcome
<p>SB 547 Aging and Long-Term Care Services, Supports, and Program Coordination</p>	<p>Authored by Senator Carol Liu, this bill is based on recommendations contained in the 2015 A Shattered System: Reforming Long-Term Care in California. Envisioning and Implementing an IDEAL Long-Term Care System in California report by the Senate Select Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care, which Senator Liu chaired. The bill originally proposed setting up a Department of Community Living led by an Assistant Secretary of Aging and Long-Term Care Coordination within the state’s Health and Human Services agency. The revised version would create a coordinating council and make integration of long-term care and aging issues the responsibility of the state’s HHS Secretary.</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>
<p>AB 1584 SSI/SSP</p>	<p>Authored by Assembly Member Cheryl Brown, this bill would increase Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) grant levels, helping to lift an estimated 1.3 million Californians out of poverty. It is an incremental step toward full restoration of the recession era cuts to the state’s portion of the grant levels (the SSP program) that started in 2008. SSI/SSP’s monthly benefits are administered by the Social Security Administration and provide income support to extremely low-income individuals who are age 65 or older, blind or disabled (including qualified blind or disabled children).</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>
<p>SB 308 Debtor Exemptions</p>	<p>Authored by Senator Bill Wieckowski, this bill would make modest and long-needed changes to the Chapter 7 bankruptcy exemptions. While home prices in California, and especially Alameda County, have climbed steadily over the last forty years, the homestead protections in our bankruptcy code have remained flat. The disparity between home values and homestead protections is so great that few families could prevent creditors from forcing them out of their homes to exact payment. This creates instability for families, but is worse for seniors. Many seniors have spent a lifetime investing in their homes with the expectation that their equity can serve as a cushion in retirement. But should they fall on hard times and a creditor forces the sale of their home, they are prohibited from using any of their home equity to live off of – the law says it must be reinvested in another property. Allowing people who just lost their home the flexibility to use what remaining home equity is left for rent, ongoing medical expenses, and other living essentials is both common sense and the right thing to do.</p>	<p>Held in the Legislature</p>

<p>AB 1754 Crime Victim Compensation – Elder or Dependent Adult Financial Abuse</p>	<p>Authored by Assembly Member Marie Waldron, this bill would create the San Diego County Elder or Dependent Adult Financial Abuse Crime Victim Compensation Pilot Program and would authorize its board, upon appropriation by the Legislature before January 1, 2019, to provide elder or dependent adult victims of financial abuse with compensation to reimburse costs for financial counseling, mental health counseling, or supportive services if the crime occurred in the County of San Diego. The bill would limit compensation to \$3,000 per person and an aggregate total of \$1,000,000. If the pilot is successful, Alameda County could seek local implementation.</p>	<p>Held in the Legislature</p>
<p>SB 33 Medi-Cal Estate Recovery</p>	<p>Authored by Assembly Member Roger Hernandez, this bill would limit Medi-Cal recovery for those who are 55+ years of age to only what is required by federal law. It would eliminate the state’s optional recovery for other services; eliminate recovery on surviving spouses’ estates; allow hardship exemptions for homesteads of modest value; and limit the amount of interest the state can charge.</p>	<p>Held in the Legislature</p>
<p>AB 2721 Informational Notice Re: Elder Fraud</p>	<p>AB 2721 (Rodriguez) requires the California Department of Justice to develop and distribute an informational notice that warns the public about elder and dependent adult fraud and provides information regarding how and where to file complaints. The law also requires that the notice be available on the state Attorney General’s Internet Web site. The law is broad and basic and leaves room for the DoJ to work with stakeholders to develop the notice. However, the law does not include a timeframe.</p>	<p>Signed Into Law</p>
<p>AB 2821 Medi-Cal Housing Program</p>	<p>Introduced by Assembly Member David Chiu, this bill would create the Medi-Cal Housing Program to pay for the cost of housing homeless individuals enrolled in counties’ Whole Person Care Pilot programs. The Medi-Cal Housing Program would reinvest savings from decreased hospital and psychiatric in-patient stays, tracked through the Whole Person Care Pilots and the Health Home Program, toward ongoing costs of housing. Frequent users of multiple systems are often homeless, and continue to increase their inpatient costs despite frequent medical intervention because they cannot get sufficient rest, follow a healthy diet, store medications, or regularly attend appointments, etc. Two-thirds of frequent users have both medical and behavioral health conditions, are homeless, and die 30 years younger than average.</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>

Key: Chaptered = signed into law by the Governor Vetoed = Vetoed by the Governor
 Appro. = bill made it to Appropriations Committee but was not passed