

OLDER ADULTS NEED MORE THAN HEALTHCARE TO STAY HEALTHY

Senior Services Coalition 2017 Bill List

Every year SSC tracks legislative proposals that help us meet the challenges of aging and live successfully in our communities, now and in the future. Below is a list of promising bills that SSC is tracking.

SB62 (Jackson) Establishes the Affordable Senior Housing Program within GO-Biz as part of the Economic Revitalization Act. The program would guide and serve as a catalyst for the development of affordable senior housing in California. The GO-Biz program would identify and convene public and private stakeholders; assist with regulatory compliance and provide information on tax credits and other incentives; and assist in finding suitable locations and potential sources of public and private funding, and obtaining state and local permits. **SUPPORT**

SB177 (Nguyen) Appropriates \$3,300,000 from the General Fund to the State Department of Health Care Services for allocation to Caregiver Resource Centers (CRCs) for the purpose of providing respite care services. The measure also enables CRC's to provide services, except for respite care services, using remote technology. **SUPPORT**

SB202 (Dodd) Increases the Medi-Cal monthly personal needs allowance from \$35 to \$80 while a person is a patient in a medical institution or nursing facility and requires the Department of Health Care Services to annually increase this amount based on a percentage increase in the California Consumer Price Index. **SUPPORT**

AB519 (Levin) Would allow a taxpayer, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2017, to designate an amount in excess of personal income tax liability to be deposited into the California Senior Citizen Advocacy Fund, which the bill would create, and which would fund the California Senior Legislature. **SUPPORT**

AB614 (Limon) Would require each area agency on aging to develop an evidence-based or evidence-informed core training program relating to Alzheimer's disease and dementia, and any additional training based on local needs. The bill would also require each agency to maintain an Alzheimer's and dementia specialist to provide information, assistance, referrals, and options counseling to families. If an agency lacks the capacity to maintain a specialist, the bill would authorize the agency to contract with a qualified local entity to provide these services, as specified. **SUPPORT IF MODIFIED TO INCLUDE FUNDING**

AB796 (Kalra) Would reinstate the SSP cost-of-living adjustment beginning January 1 of the 2018 calendar year. The bill would also require a maximum aid payment that does not equal or exceed 96% of the 2017 federal poverty level based on family size commencing January 1, 2019, or 100% of the 2018 federal poverty level based on family size, to be increased to an amount that equals 96% or 100% of the federal poverty level, respectively. **SUPPORT**

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AB806 (Kalra) Creates a tax credit for certain expenses incurred by a family caregiver for the care and support of a qualifying family member not to exceed \$1000. **SUPPORT**

AB1200 (Cervantes) Codifies into state law an existing program thereby enabling access to federal funds by establishing the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) program in the California Department of Aging. ADRCs provide information to consumers and their families on available long-term services and supports programs, and help older adults, caregivers, and persons with disabilities to access those programs. An ADRC Advisory Committee would advise on development and implementation of the program. The department and the State Department of Health Care Services would enter into a memorandum of understanding with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to authorize local government agencies to claim federal reimbursement for qualified administrative activities. **SUPPORT**

AJR8 (Kalra) Calls upon California's Representatives in Congress to vote against cuts to, and proposals to privatize Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Calls upon the President to veto any such legislation. Calls upon the President and Congress to expand and improve these programs. **SUPPORT**

In addition, **SSC supports the California Welfare Directors Association budget request** to provide \$10 million State General Fund on a one-time basis to establish **Adult Protective Services - Home Safe**, a homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing demonstration grant program for victims of elder abuse and neglect. The proposed appropriation would allow up to 10 participating counties to demonstrate over three years that providing short-term housing crisis intervention services can help victims recover, rebuild, and find safety in their own homes.

The Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County is a coalition of 40 nonprofit and public organizations that provide health care and supportive services to over 65,000 seniors and their families. We are committed to establishing an easily accessible, coordinated system of social, medical and supportive care for seniors in Alameda County.