

Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County

July 16, 2018

Senator Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814
via fax: 916-651-4925

RE: AB 2430 (Arambula) - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino:

The Senior Services Coalition represents 40 organizations that together provide health and supportive services to over 65,000 seniors in Alameda County. We are writing in support of AB 2430, which would right a terrible unfairness that many Californians struggle with every day.

AB 2430 would raise the income level of the Aged and Disabled Medi-Cal program (A&D) to 138% FPL, creating a “bright line” of income eligibility. This simple change would create parity between senior and disabled Medi-Cal beneficiaries, and other adult Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

The A&D program provides full-scope Medi-Cal to low-income seniors and persons with disabilities. When the program was created, income eligibility was set at 100% FPL, with income disregards of \$230 for individuals and \$310 for couples. In 2001, that set eligibility at 133% FPL. But because the income disregards have remained static, the income eligibility limits have lost value every year and are currently 123% FPL, or \$1,242 a month for an individual.

When a beneficiary’s income increases above 123% FPL, she is moved into the Medically Needy program with a share of cost. This means she must spend all of her monthly income, less \$600, on healthcare before Medi-Cal will cover any services. Take for example a senior with a monthly income of \$1,300. Before Medi-Cal will cover services, this senior would need to pay \$700 out of pocket on health care costs, leaving her only \$600 for all her other expenses.

This low eligibility threshold, coupled with the high share of cost means that, unlike all the adult beneficiaries covered under the Affordable Care Act who qualify for free Medi-Cal up to 138% FPL, many seniors must pay more than half their income before they can access Medi-Cal coverage.

We urge you and the Committee to support this legislation.

Sincerely,



Wendy Peterson
Director

CC: Senator Nancy Skinner; Senator Bob Weickowski