



WHO WILL BE OUR CHAMPIONS?

Senior Rally Day “Seniors Count” advocates are seeking a new perspective on senior policy and budget design from the California State Legislature. We are asking you to:



Stop taking a piecemeal approach to aging and long-term care policy and programs.



Use **good data** to make decisions.



Analyze what it will mean for the California Budget and economy when older adults comprise nearly **20%** of the population in 2030. **A crisis is looming!**

About **six million** people 65 years or older reside in California. That is **15%** of the population! This number will grow to equal almost **one-fifth** of the state’s population by 2030. Seventy percent of that population will need some form of Long-Term Care Services and Supports (LTSS). **And yet, CALIFORNIA HAS NO PLAN!**

We are asking the Legislature to adopt a **comprehensive** view of aging and long-term care policy by:

1. Creating a **Standing** Senate Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care;
2. Expanding the jurisdiction of the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care;
3. Conducting Assembly and Senate **Joint Hearings** among the respective Budget Sub-Committees and relevant Standing Policy Committees to focus on aging and long-term care budget items only.
4. Directing the Health and Human Services Agency to develop an **Aging and Long-Term Care Action Plan** with input from all state departments and offices with relevant jurisdiction and expertise as well as experts and stakeholders throughout California.

MEANWHILE, WE ASK YOU TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION AND BUDGET ITEMS THAT BENEFIT SENIORS INCLUDING:

BUDGET ITEMS

- **LTSS Data** -Allocate \$3 million in one-time funds to collect and analyze Californians’ LTSS needs.
- **SSI/SSP Increase** – increase the SSI/SSP grants by \$100 per recipient, estimated at \$1.3 billion.
- **Alzheimer’s Public Awareness Campaign** - Allocate \$2.2 million one-time funds for an early detection awareness campaign thru the Area Agencies on Aging.
- **Ombudsman Program** – Authorize \$7.299 million ongoing to increase long-term care facilities investigations, visits, and volunteers.
- **Senior Nutrition** – Increase budget to serve meals to an additional 6% of at-risk seniors, estimated cost \$12.5 million.
- **Multipurpose Senior Service Program (MSSP)** - Adjust supplemental rate for MSSP complex case management program serving extremely frail, at risk elders in the community, estimated cost is \$4.7 million.
- **CalPACE** – PACE provides and coordinates an array of medical, social, and long-term care services and supports to help keep frail seniors out of hospitals and nursing facilities. Eleven PACE organizations currently serve nearly 6,000 seniors statewide in 12 counties. Insert Budget language allowing new and expanded PACE programs to start up on a monthly basis.
- **In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)** –Rescind the 7% service hour cut now backfilled by the MCO tax, making program funding independent of the uncertainties of the MCO tax.
- **California Community Transition Program (CCT)**. – The CCT program transitions nursing home residents back to community settings, producing significant cost savings. The federal program expires September 30, 2020. 63,300 people with chronic conditions have transitioned from institutions back into the community as of December 2015. Instead of cutting 2017/18 funding from \$19.1 million to \$8 million in 2018-19, continue current funding in 2018-2019 and thereafter. Total program savings in 2018-2019 are estimated to be \$28,2 million, of which half would be General Fund.
- **Home Safe Program**. Authorize \$15 million to establish Home Safe, a homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing demonstration grant program for victims of elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect.

AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE LEGISLATION

<p><u>AB-550</u> Reyes</p>	<p>Minimum Ombudsman Funding. This bill would increase the base allocation for local ombudsman programs from \$35,000 to \$100,000 per fiscal year in any year in which funds are made available for allocation.</p>
<p><u>AB-1955</u> Limón</p>	<p>Alzheimer’s Awareness Campaign. Existing law requires the department to establish an Aging Information and Education Fund from funds made available in the annual Budget Act, to implement public awareness of various issues, including medication management and elder abuse prevention.</p> <p>AB 1955 requires the department to develop and implement a public awareness campaign to reduce stigma and raise public awareness of the warning signs of Alzheimer’s disease and dementia to promote early detection and accurate diagnosis.</p>
<p><u>AB-2025</u> Maienschein</p>	<p>Elders Living with Dignity, Empathy, Respect, and Support Bond Act of 2020. If enacted by the people, the state would be authorized to issue and sell general obligation bonds in the aggregate amount of \$200,000,000. Money would be awarded by the California Health Facilities Financing Authority to fund public or private nonprofit agencies or organizations for acquiring, renovating, constructing, or purchasing equipment for specialized day services centers for adults with chronic medical, cognitive, or behavioral health conditions, including, but not limited to, Alzheimer’s disease or related dementia, or startup or expansion of eligible facilities.</p>
<p><u>AB-2430</u> Arambula</p>	<p>Increase MediCal eligibility for aged and disabled. AB 2430 increases income disregard for Medi-Cal eligibility from 100% of federal poverty level to 138% for those who are aged or disabled.</p>
<p><u>AB-3200</u> Kalra</p>	<p>Reinstate the cost-of-living adjustment for SSI/SSP. AB 3200 would reinstate the SSI/SSP COLA adjustment beginning January 1 of the 2019 calendar year.</p>
<p><u>SB-1026</u> Jackson</p>	<p>Dignity at Home and Fall Prevention Program. SB 1026 requires the Department of Aging to provide grants to Area Agencies on Aging for injury prevention information, education, and services to enable older adults and persons with disabilities to live independently in the home environment for as long as possible. The bill would require the department, in consultation with experts knowledgeable in injury prevention for older adults and persons with disabilities, to develop and compile training materials and program standards and to establish a methodology for awarding grants.</p>
<p><u>SB-1248</u> Gaines & Glazer</p>	<p>Reform the California Partnership for Long-Term Care Program. Administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, The Partnership was intended to provide income protection from Medi-Cal reimbursement for individuals who purchase certified private long-term care insurance policies. Current law specifies levels and durations of benefits required for certification of a long-term care insurance policy under the program. These requirements have resulted in premiums too high for purchase by the middle-income target audience the program was intended to benefit.</p> <p>SB 1248 requires an insurer to offer an applicant a lifetime maximum benefit that, at the time of purchase, is equivalent in dollars to at least 365 times 70% of the average daily private pay rate for a nursing facility. The bill would also authorize an insurer to offer an applicant at least one lower cost option that provides a per diem benefit of at least \$100 per day for a nursing facility, a residential care facility, or home- and community-based services, if the policy provides a lifetime maximum benefit of not less than \$73,000.</p>