



**RLEGISLATION AND  
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May 7, 2019

The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
Speaker of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Request for Funding for Actuarial Study relating to Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) in FY 19-20 state budget**

Dear Assembly Member Rendon:

On behalf of Disability Rights California, I am writing in support of the allocation of \$1 million dollars from the General Fund to fund a feasibility study and actuarial analysis relating to the creation of a new long-term services and supports (LTSS) financing program that could meet the needs of California's growing population of older adults and people living with disabilities.

In order to develop a new LTSS benefit, this study will provide critical guidance on the following: the scope of services for such a program; eligibility criteria; projected cost estimates of LTSS financing options; and projected savings to state funded programs and services associated with each option, including but not limited to, Medi-Cal and the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program. We request that the funds be appropriated to the Department of Social Services to direct the study.

Disability Rights California (DRC) is a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities. California currently has almost 8 million persons who are either older adults or persons with mobility, sensory, intellectual, developmental, and/or mental

health disabilities. This population will grow significantly over the next decade.

LTSS are not covered adequately by Medicare, and most Californians cannot afford to purchase private long-term care insurance. Paying out-of-pocket for LTSS is cost prohibitive for many and creates a significant financial and social burden for California families. For individuals and families, the unanticipated costs can lead to impoverishment, lack of care options, and intense psychological stress. When informal networks of care are not available, individuals and families pay out-of-pocket for LTSS, purchasing services provided by home care aides, adult day services, assisted living communities, and nursing homes, to help fill the gap. But these services bring high costs, not only to the individuals directly involved, but also to taxpayers and the government as more individuals are forced to spend down assets to qualify for an overburdened Medi-Cal system.

California needs a new LTSS financing program that provides flexible benefits responsive to each person's unique needs. This program would preserve dignity, choice, and intentionality for individuals and families with service and support needs, and be linked to a new, sustainable funding source. This social insurance program would help relieve the increasing demographic and financial pressure on our Medi-Cal system.

California needs a sustainable financing mechanism to support and empower individuals and families to meet this growing need. For the above reasons, we support this measured and modest request which will enable the state to better plan for the LTSS needs of its growing population of older adults and people with disabilities of all ages.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis Child". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Curtis" and last name "Child" clearly distinguishable.

Curtis Child  
Legislative Director  
Disability Rights California

CC: Gail Gronert, Consultant, Office of Assembly Speaker  
Agnes Lee, Consultant, Office of Assembly Speaker  
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee  
Nicole Vazquez, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee