



**LEGISLATION AND
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May 7, 2019

The Honorable Toni Atkins
President pro Tempore
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 512, the California Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Benefit Legislation and Request for Funding for Actuarial Study relating to LTSS in FY 19-20 state budget

Dear Senator Atkins:

On behalf of Disability Rights California, I am writing in support of **SB 512** that would create a new long-term services and supports (LTSS) benefit program for California residents. Additionally, 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 the LTSS program.

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.

In order to create this program, we need to fund the actuarial study that would examine different eligibility and benefit options to determine cost and potential financing solutions. This study would specifically look at California's unique and diverse population and ensure that we are developing the right solution.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support **SB 512 and the Budget Request for the LTSS Actuarial Study.**

Very truly yours,



Curtis Child
Legislative Director
Disability Rights California

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