

Master Plan on Aging Action Items- March 26, 2021

Housing for All Ages and Stages: AB 695 (Arambula)

This bill would provide homeless prevention and longer-term housing assistance and support through the Home Safe Program. It would authorize a county that receives grant funds under the Home Safe Program to, as part of providing case management services to elder or dependent adults who require adult protective services, provide housing assistance to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Inclusion and Equity: Bridging the Digital Divide

Digital technologies are fostering new opportunities for connection and inclusion for work, play, community, culture, and commerce. However, over two million Californians do not have access to high-speed internet and approximately 34 percent of adults over 60 do not use the Internet at all. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought these issues into greater focus and heightened the need for improved access to broadband, digital devices, and technology support for older adults.

Health Reimagined: SB 515 (Pan)/AB 911 (Nazarian)

These bills would set up a state board to organize a LTSS social insurance plan to cover LTSS for Californians needing those services, but not qualifying for Medi-Cal. This would both protect the health of those receiving its benefits and provide protection for many of their caregivers. When funds became available for a LTSS social insurance plan, the board could see that funds go to support LTSS provided by institutions, by in-home support services, and by unpaid caregivers.

SB 56 (Durazo)/ AB 4 (Arambula)

These bills would provide full-scope Medi-Cal to all income-eligible seniors (ages 65+) by removing immigration status as an eligibility exclusion. Seniors are amongst the most vulnerable populations and Immigrant seniors are often amongst the lowest income and live in multi-generational households which can put them at even greater risk during a pandemic.

Caregiving that Works: State Budget Ask (Nazarian)

We are asking the state legislature and Governor to extend the Caregiver Resource Center Pilot Project for another two years – to provide training, resources and support to family and other caregivers. We are also requesting a special \$2 million addition to insure diversity and inclusivity in these CRC's.

Affording Aging: SB 107 (Wiener)

This bill would, to the extent permitted by federal law, give an individual the option to apply, report, and recertify for CalFresh in person, by mail, online, or by telephone, and permit an individual to complete the interview requirement and client signature by telephone. The bill would also authorize counties to implement any method of telephonic or electronic signature that is supported by county business practice and technology, making it easier for older adults and others to apply for and receive the food stamps they so desperately need.

Next Steps – Get Active/Get Engaged:

- Sign up to be part of the **Virtual Senior Lobby Day on May 21st:**

APRIL 23RD @ NOON – TRAINING: COMMUNICATING WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS

REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0kde2ppjstH9JooTIRQf8XwyzPMnWNVRb6>

MAY 14TH @ NOON – TRAINING FOR MAY 21ST LOBBY DAY

REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMkc-mpqD4iEtYQd9RRQ81-4gFLdD8U17Cf>

MAY 21ST – CARA VIRTUAL LOBBY DAY WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR.

CARA will be coordinating virtual meetings with all 120 state legislators on this date. If you would like to participate in a Zoom or teleconference meeting with your state Assemblymember or Senator, you can sign up by contacting caralobby@gmail.com.

- Please contact your State Assemblymember or Senator to urge their support of these bills and budget items that will help move the Master Plan on Aging Forward. To find your legislator and their contact information, go to: http://www.legislature.ca.gov/your_legislator.html