



**California Association of Public Authorities
for In-Home Supportive Services**

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January 4, 2008

Honorable Mervyn M. Dymally, Chair
California Assembly Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 851 (Brownley)
CAPA Position: Support

Dear Chairman Dymally:

The California Association of Public Authorities for In-Home Support Services (CAPA) and its 52 Public Authority members representing 55 counties in California, is writing to support AB 851 (Brownley) which will put in place mechanisms allowing people with significant disabilities to work, and will remove the current 2008 sunset for Medi-Cal's California Working Disabled program (CWD) .

We believe this bill will provide significant improvements to the CWD program. Many Californians with disabilities have been unable to work because they cannot afford to lose their Medi-Cal benefits. If enabled to work, many of these people will reduce the burden on the state's General Fund.

All CWD participants will pay a monthly premium for Medi-Cal. Earned income will reduce or eliminate dependence on SSI and the State Supplemental Payment for employed individuals. Many will gain access to employer sponsored health insurance and will only need Medi-Cal as secondary or tertiary coverage. In addition, employed individuals will be taxpayers and this bill allows disabled individuals to earn up to \$50,000 annually.

We strongly support AB 851, so that disabled people may work, become increasingly independent and ultimately ease the state's fiscal burden.

Sincerely,

Tom Riley
Legislative Advocate