



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

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June 16, 2008

Honorable Senator Denise Ducheny, Chair
Budget Conference Committee
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 94016

Dear Senator Ducheny:

**RE: IHSS Budget
Position: Maintain Current Funding**

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 urge the conference committee to reject any proposal that threatens to further erode the state's In-home Supportive Service (IHSS) infrastructure.

CAPA believes that it is vital that the Legislature and the Governor ensure full funding for the IHSS program, the State's cost-effective program that allows 408,000 low-income seniors and disabled Californians to remain in their homes and out of institutionalized care.

CAPA therefore opposes:

- Any proposed reductions in program eligibility, including the proposed elimination of Domestic and Related Services to certain IHSS consumers.
- Proposed elimination of the State's coverage of the difference between IHSS and Medi-Cal share of cost for certain consumers.
- Proposed reductions in spending on county administration of the IHSS program.
- Reduction of State participation in IHSS provider wages.
- Suspension of SSI/SSP cost-of-living adjustments for IHSS consumers.

CAPA advocates for Budget solutions that recognize IHSS as a humane, cost-effective approach to maintaining the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of Californians. Specifically, such proposals would:

- Protect access to IHSS by maintaining current eligibility standards.
- Protect program access and service quality by ensuring adequate State participation in IHSS provider wages.
- Protect the quality of life of IHSS consumers by fully funding SSI/SSP cost-of-living adjustments.
- If necessary, provide for tax or other revenue increases to ensure program access and effectiveness.

Thank you for your consideration. We welcome the opportunity to continue to work with budget leaders on humane and cost-effective solutions for the state's disabled community .

Sincerely,

Tom Riley
Legislative Advocate

CC: Members, Budget Conference Committee