



California Association of Public Authorities
for In-Home Supportive Services
1029 J Street, Suite 120, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916.492.9111 Fax: 916.492.9444

June 4, 2009

The Honorable Carol Liu, Chair
Senate Human Services Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 378 (Cook)
CAPA Position: OPPOSE

Dear Senator Liu,

The California Association of Public Authorities (CAPA) urges you to oppose AB 378 (Cook), which is scheduled to be heard June 9 in your committee. CAPA represents 52 Public Authorities and Non-Profit Consortia operating in 55 counties, each of whom serves as the local employer of record for the IHSS program and maintains the provider registry.

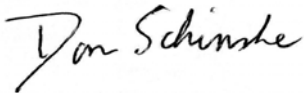
AB 378 asks that each Public Authority and Non-profit Consortium, in conjunction with its county advisory commission and other stakeholders, develop core training topics and training standards for that county's IHSS providers. Although CAPA believes IHSS workers and consumers would benefit from more training, we oppose AB 378 for a number of reasons:

- 1) Core training topics – CAPA has already developed a list of core training topics (attached) that includes basic and advanced program orientation, workplace safety, chronic diseases and , legal issues, provider health and wellness, emergency preparedness, and range of other topics. Public Authorities are encouraged to offer training from this list, based on the particular needs and capacities of their service areas.
- 2) Implementation – Public Authorities are obliged under current statute to “offer” training to consumers and providers. Specific training is not now mandated for either consumers or providers, in recognition that many consumers and providers have difficulty accessing training owing to lack of transportation, the long distances sometimes involved in traveling to county offices, physical limitations on part of consumers or providers, and the lack of financial incentive to attend trainings. Training standards, if developed and enforced across the board, would likely result in the exclusion of some consumers and providers from participation. (And by definition the standards will vary tremendously, county by county, owing to vastly different populations and program sizes; one questions the basic meaning of “standards” if there would be 50-odd sets of them.)

- 3) Consumer direction – Ultimately, the imposition of training requirements in the program could encroach on consumer choice, one of the guiding principles of IHSS. If a consumer’s preferred provider – possibly a family member – is unable to attend a mandatory training and a different provider is needed, then the relationship between consumer and the eventual provider could be far less satisfying, despite any amount of added training.
- 4) Funding – The offering of a standardized training curriculum to all IHSS consumers and providers must be adequately funded. Trainers need to be paid. Providers must be incentivized to attend. Transportation would need to be arranged for some consumers and providers. Training records for each individual would need to be created, updated, and tracked. AB 378 does not acknowledge any of this.

For these reasons, CAPA strongly urges you to Oppose AB 378. Improving consumer and provider training in IHSS is an important subject and a worthy aim. It demands a much less simplistic approach.

Thank you for your consideration,



Don Schinske
Legislative Advocate

cc. The Honorable Paul Cook
The Honorable Abel Maldonado, Vice Chair
Members, Human Services Committee
Jack Hailey, Human Services Consultant
Mary Tinker, Legislative Chair, CAPA
Bernadette Lynch, Board President, CAPA
Trula LaCalle, Executive Director, CAPA