



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

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June 4, 2009

The Honorable Noreen Evans, Chair
Budget Conference Committee
The Honorable Senator Denise Ducheny, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Reject Proposal to Eliminate Multipurpose
Senior Services Program (MSSP)**

Dear Assembly Member Evans and Senator Ducheny,

The California Association of Public Authorities (CAPA) urges you and your colleagues to reject the Governor's proposal to eliminate the Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP).

Currently 12,500 low-income, frail seniors benefit from the managed coordination of local services that MSSP provides. These services allow a particularly vulnerable group of elderly Californians, all of whom are *already nursing-home eligible*, to live in their homes and communities. If the program is cut, fully half of the recipients would *immediately* be placed in skilled nursing facilities, where their collective cost of care would far exceed what the State spends on MSSP. These costs would grow, year by year, as more former MSSP recipients enter the long-term care system.

CAPA appreciates your consideration of the following points:

- MSSP clients are all Medi-Cal and nursing-home eligible.
- Every MSSP dollar is matched by a federal dollar, and also draws down additional federal stimulus funding. All the federal funds would disappear.
- Many recipients would be placed immediately in nursing homes. Any projected savings to the State would never materialize.

Please, MSSP pays for itself. It is the costs associated with its elimination – both human and financial – that would be beyond what society could bear.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bernadette Lynch
President



Trula M. LaCalle, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc. Senator Bob Dutton
Senator Mark Leno
Senator Alan Lowenthal
Senator Mimi Walters
Assemblymember Bob Blumenfield
Assemblymember Kevin de León
Assemblymember Roger Niello
Assemblymember Jim Nielsen
Assembly Speaker Karen Bass
President Pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg