



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

April 16, 2009

The Honorable Bonnie Lowenthal, Chair
Assembly Aging and Long-Term Care Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 324 (Beall)
CAPA Position: Support

Dear Assemblymember Lowenthal,

The California Association of Public Authorities (CAPA) urges your support of AB 324 (Beall), which is scheduled to be heard April 21 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 and maintains the provider registry for the IHSS program.

AB 324 would require the Department of Aging to annually update the Elder Economic Security Standard Index (Elder Index) for the State of California, and to use the index in allocating services for needs-based programs.

The out-of-date methodology currently in use, which is based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines, underestimates the costs of living for the elderly population by emphasizing changes in one category of costs: food. The Elder Index includes cost calculations for food, but also out-of-pocket medical expenses, housing, and transportation. It is thus a better reflection of the minimum resources needed to live independently.

Please, CAPA encourages your support of AB 324, and appreciates your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Schinske".

Don Schinske
Legislative Advocate

cc. The Honorable Norma Torres, Vice Chair
Assembly Aging and Long-Term Care
Members, Assembly Aging and Long-Term Care
Consultant Allison Ruff
Mary Tinker, Legislative Chair, CAPA
Bernadette Lynch, Board President, CAPA
Trula LaCalle, Executive Director, CAPA