



California Association of Public Authorities
for In-Home Supportive Services

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July 7, 2009

The Honorable Christine Kehoe
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 682 (Lowenthal)
CAPA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Kehoe,

The California Association of Public Authorities (CAPA) urges your support of AB 682 (Lowenthal), which is scheduled to be heard July 13 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.

The issue of fraud within IHSS has, for better or worse, become a focal point in the current Budget debate. Casual assertions that fraud occurs in 10 percent of cases, or 25 percent of cases, are now put forth almost by rote, giving the impression that evidence exists for such numbers, or perhaps that the fraud is so self-evident it doesn't need to be accurately quantified or characterized.

The fact is, aside from the anecdotal evidence of several egregious cases and some dubious extrapolations from local grand jury reports, there is little hard evidence of how much and what types of fraud occur systemwide. The various IHSS anti-fraud proposals now under consideration all share an essential problem: the lack of solid data that would help suggest which proposals are needed and will work, and which aren't and won't.

AB 682 would require CDSS to track and report on fraud to the Legislature, so that any remedies introduced can be appropriate to the type and amount of fraud that is actually occurring. It's a smart, straightforward step toward improving IHSS, a program that deserves not to be defrauded as much as it deserves not to be apologized for.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Don Schinske
Legislative Advocate

cc. Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Mary Tinker, Legislative Chair, CAPA
Bernadette Lynch, Board President, CAPA
Trula LaCalle, Executive Director, CAPA