

IHSS Budget Letter– Repeal 7% Cuts

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #3
State Capitol, Room 4052
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula, M.D.
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1
State Capitol, Room 5155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: IHSS Budget – Permanent Restoration of the 7% Across-the-Board Hours Cut

Dear Senator Talamantes Eggman and Assembly Member
Arambula:

The undersigned 49 organizations appreciate the Governor's budget proposal to extend the restoration of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) service hours until December 31, 2022 but believe the provision should be permanently repealed. We, therefore, respectfully request a permanent repeal of the 7% IHSS hours cut by rescinding Welfare & Institutions Code § 12301.01 through 12301.05.

The IHSS program keeps Californians with disabilities, including seniors, in their own homes and saves taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars in doing so. If implemented, the 7% cut to IHSS hours would be devastating to IHSS consumers and providers:

- A consumer assessed as needing the average number of monthly hours would lose 8 of those hours – those service hours are needed for feeding, meal preparation, bathing,

and other authorized tasks. A consumer who is assessed as needing the maximum number of 283 hours would lose 20 hours of help per month – more than two days of personal care or domestic services. The need for personal care services is not going away – but the help would.

- The 7% reduction in IHSS hours means IHSS providers working for the average IHSS consumer would lose \$119.52 of their monthly income. Decreased wages means consumers will have a more limited supply of home care workers, making it difficult for them to remain safely in their homes and possibly forcing them into institutions such as nursing homes. Many IHSS providers already live in poverty and are eligible for food stamps. Because of the loss of income, many IHSS providers may seek work elsewhere.

The Governor’s proposed FY 21/22 budget provides funding to restore IHSS service hours – but only until December 31, 2022. IHSS consumers need all the hours they are allotted, and it is stress-inducing and destabilizing to have this possible cut hanging over people’s heads. We respectfully request a permanent repeal of the 7% cut to IHSS.

Sincerely,

AARP California

Access TLC Home Health Care

Alzheimer's Association

Alzheimer's Los Angeles

Butte County IHSS Public Authority

California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS

CA IHSS Consumer Alliance

Calaveras County IHSS Public Authority

California Alliance for Retired Americans

California Association of Area Agencies on Aging

California Church IMPACT
California Coalition of Welfare Rights Organizations
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers
Californians for Disability Rights
CalPACE
CDCAN (CA Disability-Senior Community Action Network
Choice in Aging
Community Access Center
Disability Action Center
Disability Community Resource Center
Disability Rights California
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
East Bay Community Law Center
East Bay Innovations
Educate. Advocate.
Empower Family California
IHSS Public Authority of Marin
IN SPIRIT
Justice in Aging
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
MSSP Site Association
Nevada-Sierra Connecting Point Public Authority
Northern California ADAPT
Orange County Aging Services Collaborative
Placer Independent Resource Services
Resources for Independence Central Valley

San Diego IHSS Coalition
San Francisco IHSS Public Authority
Santa Clara IHSS Public Authority
Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County
SEIU California
Silicon Valley Independent Living Center
Sourcewise - Community Resource Solutions of Santa Clara
Trinity County Health and Human Services
UDW/AFSCME Local 3930
Uplift Family Services
Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #3
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1
The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Committee
The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Renita Polk, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Nicole Vazquez, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Rebecca Hamilton, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Eric Dietz, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Mareva Brown, Office of the Senate President pro Tempore
Gail Gronert, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Ginni Bella Navarre, Legislative Analyst's Office
Kim Johnson, Director, Department of Social Services
Adam Dorsey, Department of Finance
Tam Ma, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom