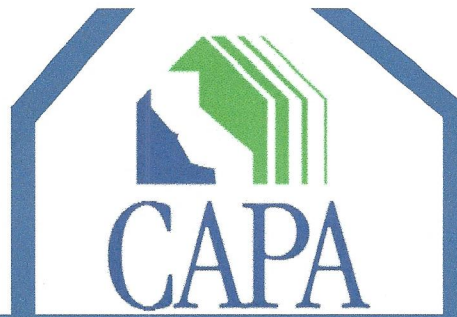


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February 28, 2018

Senator Scott Wiener, Chair
Senate Human Services Committee
State Capitol Room 5065
Sacramento, CA 94814
Via facsimile: (916) 651-4903

**RE: SB 1040 (Dodd) – In-Home Supportive Services: natural disaster resulting in a state of emergency.
SPONSOR**

Dear Senator Wiener,

The California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS (CAPA) is proud to sponsor SB 1040 by Senator Bill Dodd. The IHSS Emergency Response, Preparedness, and Consumer Safety Act seeks to address shortcomings and gaps in the provision of services to IHSS consumers in situations where a natural disaster has occurred, resulting in the Governor declaring a state of emergency.

The primary hurdles in addressing the unique and varied needs of IHSS consumers during natural disasters are ensuring that those in charge of providing care and shelter during emergency situations are not only informed as to the needs of IHSS consumers, but also have the capacity to provide for those needs. Additionally, it is often difficult to overcome programming requirements, which, while necessary during non-emergency situations, may prove difficult if not impossible to meet during emergency situations; and, finally, the general fund costs associated with the provision of services are often thought to be higher than they actually are. The three pronged approach envisioned by this measure will not only ensure that local government entities and those with whom they partner during natural disasters, have the information they need to ensure that IHSS consumers get the care and services they need during natural disasters, but also that the law is amended to ensure that IHSS hours may be used by those consumers for provision of services during times of natural disaster. Finally, the bill will not trigger any general fund costs, as associated costs arising out of provision of services during natural disasters are usually borne by FEMA, rather than the general fund.

(1) Consumer Hour Allotment in Declared State of Emergencies. Under existing law and regulations, hours are allotted to consumers based on need as determined by IHSS social workers. The definition of the purposes for which hours may be allotted for this purpose, will, under this bill, an allocation of hours for the needs of the consumer during a declared state of emergency. As the ultimate goal of the IHSS program is to enable consumers to stay in their homes, the ultimate goal of this amendment is to better ensure consumers are able to safely return to their homes in the aftermath of a declared state of emergency. All associated costs would be borne by FEMA, rather than the general fund.

(2) Expand County Emergency Response Protocols to include protocols on provision of emergency services to IHSS recipients. Each county has a set of emergency response protocols in place. FEMA has recently issued a set of recommendations, which includes a recommendation that such protocols speak to provision of services for IHSS recipients. This measure does not mandate the specifics of what should be included, so as to provide counties with the flexibility they need in developing these protocols, rather, the bill merely mandates that counties include protocols specific to IHSS consumers in their emergency response protocols.

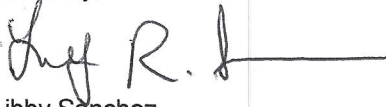
(3) Codification of Recent CMIPS Advisory re: Expedited Paycheck Replacement in a Declared State of Emergency. CDSS recently issued a CMIPS Advisory in response to one state of emergency, providing for

expedited protocols for provider paycheck replacement in a declared state of emergency. Providers earn very low wages. Any delay in receipt of their paychecks can be devastating. This is true not only for providers, but for consumers as well—as we know that many providers moved out of the area after the recent Napa/Sonoma fires, due to uncertainty of continued employment, which left consumers with limited choices. This measure codifies the recent CMIPS Advisory so that any time there is a declared state of emergency, there will be a process in place for providers to get replacement paychecks in an expedited manner, in hopes that the instability we saw during the Napa/Sonoma fires can be avoided in future.

We believe the three prongs contained in this measure will provide much needed relief and a modicum of dignity to consumers during natural disasters resulting in declared states of emergency.

We respectfully urge your “aye” vote on SB 1040. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you are in need of any additional information, or have any questions which we may answer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Libby R. Sanchez", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Libby Sanchez,
CAPA Legislative Advocate

cc: Members & consultants, Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Bill Dodd