



June 26, 2019

1100 K Street
Suite 101
Sacramento
California
95814

Telephone
916.327.7500

Facsimile
916.441.5507

The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
State Capitol, Room 2175
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 228 (Jackson) – Master Plan on Aging
As Amended on April 25, 2019 – SUPPORT
Set for Hearing on July 2, 2019 – Assembly Human Services Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Gómez Reyes:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is pleased to have a support position on SB 228 by Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson. This bill would require the establishment of an Aging Task Force and require the Governor to appoint a Master Plan Director to lead the planning process for the Master Plan on Aging to identify policy changes needed to prepare for California's aging population.

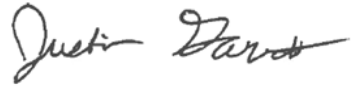
California's senior population is projected to grow significantly in the coming years, with the Department of Finance estimating that the number of adults age 65 and older will grow from 5.2 million in 2015 to 13.5 million in 2060. As the aging population is forecasted to rise significantly, the number of older adults suffering from a chronic condition or form of disability will follow that same trend. This growing population will place significant demands on California's infrastructure to care for older adults and communities will be significantly impacted by the resulting financial and emotional demands.

California's counties play a vital role in caring for the growing senior population, including administering the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program and the Adult Protective Services (APS) program. The IHSS program provides critical long-term services and supports to low-income seniors and disabled individuals to help them remain safely in their homes. The APS program provides response and services to older adults and disabled individuals who are victims of abuse and neglect. Both of these social services programs are experiencing significant growth and are essential to the health and safety of the aging and disabled population.

SB 228 would require the Master Plan Director to work with the Aging Task Force to develop a Master Plan on Aging. The task force must include representatives from a wide range of systems, including local government, to learn about and discuss important challenges, potential solutions, and future considerations needed to address the growing aging population. The goals of the Master Plan include preparing the state for the impact of the aging population, improving the quality of service delivery, ensuring adequate funding for key programs, and supporting the workforce and unpaid caregivers. This will require collaboration between the state, local governments, and partner organizations and counties are ready to work together to identify strategies to best meet the needs of our state's seniors, disabled individuals, and caregivers.

California is at a pivotal moment for a statewide focus on this issue and SB 228 shows a commitment to statewide preparedness efforts. It is for these reasons that CSAC supports SB 228 and respectfully requests your "Aye" vote. Should you or your staff have additional questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 650-8117 or jgarrett@counties.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Garrett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Justin Garrett
Legislative Representative

cc: The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson, Senator, California State Senate
Honorable Members, Assembly Human Services Committee
Daphne Hunt, Chief Consultant, Assembly Human Services Committee
Cyndi Hillery, Assembly Republican Caucus