

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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April 7, 2015

The Honorable Tony Thurmond, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via Fax to 916/319-2115

RE: Support of Assembly Aging Package, Including Adult Protective Services \$5 Million Training Request

Dear Assemblyman Thurmond:

The County of El Dorado urges your support for the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) request to provide \$5 million to support statewide training of social work staff in the Adult Protective Services (APS) program. These trainings are critical in ensuring our APS workers are prepared to effectively protect and serve elder and dependent adult victims of abuse and neglect.

California's population of elderly is growing at an exponential rate and the result is an increasing demand for local services such as APS. County welfare agencies provide 24/7 response to reports of abuse and neglect of elders and dependent adults.

APS workers are the first-line of defense against elder and dependent adult abuse and must be prepared to respond to crisis. In extreme cases, APS services are lifesaving. Our workers must be well versed in the laws and have the necessary skill sets to conduct investigations, often jointly with local law enforcement, on a myriad of cases including financial abuse. APS social workers help vulnerable elders, dependent adults, and their families navigate complex systems and obtain needed services. A well-trained workforce is necessary to help victims remain safe in their own homes, thus avoiding hospitalization and institutional care, such placement into nursing homes, which are much more costly to tax payers.

The State is responsible for funding and delivering APS training to ensure statewide consistency and quality of APS services. However, with less than \$100,000 available for APS training statewide, there is simply not enough training for our APS staff. The result is an undertrained workforce that is challenged to meet the growing demand for services. A strong training infrastructure is critical to ensuring statewide quality in direct services to victims of elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect.

We believe the requested \$5 million will serve as a critical investment in the quality and effectiveness of APS services and will enable us to meet the increasing needs of our aging population. For these reasons, the County of El Dorado urges your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. K. Veerkamp', written in a cursive style.

Brian K. Veerkamp, Chair

cc: The Honorable Rob Bonta, CA State Assembly via fax to 916/319-2118
The Honorable David Chiu, CA State Assembly via fax to 916/319-2117
The Honorable Shannon Grove, CA State Assembly via fax to 916/319-2134
The Honorable Brian Jones, CA State Assembly via fax to 916/319-2141
The Honorable Tom McClintock, United States House of Representatives via fax to 916/786-6364
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 (Attn: Nicole Vazquez) via fax to 916/319-2119
Assembly Republican Fiscal, Subcommittee No. 1 (Attn: Julie Souliere) via fax to 916/319-3560
County Welfare Directors Association of California via fax to 916/443-3202