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Michael Ranalli
 District IV

Sue Novasel
 District V

May 17, 2016

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

RE: Support Adult Protective Services \$5 million training request

Dear Assemblyman Thurmond:

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

In El Dorado County, 18.52% of the population is aged 65 or older. Statewide, 13.3% of the population is aged 65 or older. Unfortunately, with a high percentage of elders in El Dorado County, we also have experienced a steady growth in reported abuse and neglect of seniors, which has placed even greater demands on our local APS response system. In 2015, County of El Dorado had 1,007 APS referrals. To date in 2016, County of El Dorado has had over 265 APS referrals. At the current rate, it is projected that by the end of 2016, County of El Dorado will receive an estimated 1,200 APS referrals.

County APS workers are the first-line of defense against elder and dependent adult abuse, responding 24/7 to crisis situations, protecting the victim from his or her perpetrator and obtaining needed services to remain in their homes and communities. In extreme cases, APS services are life-saving. Our workers must be well versed in the laws and have the necessary skill sets to conduct investigations, often working alongside law enforcement agencies. They help victims and their families navigate complex systems, such as health and legal systems, to remain safe. A well-trained workforce is necessary to help victims remain safe in their own homes; thus avoiding hospitalization and institutional care such as placement into nursing homes, which are much more costly to tax payers.

The State is responsible for funding APS training to ensure statewide consistency and quality of APS services. However, with only \$88,000 available for APS training statewide, there is simply

not enough training for our APS staff. The result is an undertrained workforce who are challenged to meet the growing demand for services. A strong training infrastructure will ensure that our first responders – APS social work staff – have the skills and knowledge to intervene on behalf of vulnerable elders and dependent adults, and that they are supported and guided by supervisors who will also have access to training.

This proposal is modeled after, and builds upon, the existing statewide training infrastructure similar to what is available to child welfare staff. New social workers and supervisors will be able to attend induction training in nationally-recognized core competencies specific to their work in APS. Advanced training will be available to all staff in areas such as how to assess client capacity, understanding how medical conditions impact client self-care, and investigating complex financial abuse cases.

We believe the requested \$5 million is critical to ensuring statewide quality in direct services to victims of elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect and 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, County of El Dorado urges your support.

Sincerely,

Ron Mikulaco, Chair
County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Rob Bonta, CA State Assembly
The Honorable David Chiu, CA State Assembly
The Honorable Shannon Grove, CA State Assembly
The Honorable Matthew Harper, CA State Assembly
County Delegation, CA State Assembly
County Welfare Directors Association of California

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May 17, 2016

The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair
 Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
 State Capitol, Room 5080
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support Adult Protective Services \$5 million training request

Dear Senator Mitchell:

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

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