

AB 1993 Support Letter

Please use your organization's letterhead and ensure all fields are filled and highlights are deleted before sending to the Advocacy Portal.

[DATE]

**THE HONORABLE BUFFY WICKS, CHAIR
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

Re: **ASSEMBLY BILL 1993 (KALRA) – [YOUR ORGANIZATION]**

Dear Chair Wicks,

I am writing on behalf of [YOUR ORGANIZATION] in support of AB 1993 (Kalra). [DESCRIPTION OF YOUR ORGANIZATION]. We stand in support of this bill which would expand the number of individuals that Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs) can serve.

RCFEs provide 24-hour supervised non-medical care for adults aged 60 and over who cannot live independently but still want to live within the community of their choice. These facilities vary in size, ranging from smaller facilities operating within single-family homes to large facilities housing 200 or more residents. Smaller facilities, often preferred for their intimate setting, are not able to utilize possible capacity due to antiquated and arbitrary capacity limits enforced at the local level.

Under state law, an RCFE with six residents or less must be treated as a residential use of property for the purposes of zoning and local ordinances. An RCFE which cares for more than six residents is often subject to a conditional use permit, where approval from a local entity is required before the RCFE can operate. Thus, a six-bed facility's ability to expand is held at the discretion of a local zoning and planning authority and not by an authority that judges the ability of the RCFE to care for its residents. As a result, over 3,000 six-bed facilities have closed since 2017.

AB 1993 would amend the RCFE Act to enable small RCFEs to expand the number of individuals they can serve by replacing the number of residents that triggers local discretionary review from six to ten. This change would allow small RCFE operators to serve more older individuals consistent with Department of Social Services (CDSS) regulations and standard building codes. Allowing smaller RCFEs to serve more than six residents can help open more needed spots at assisted living homes to serve a growing aging population. CDSS would still be responsible for ensuring that the RCFE is able to meet the care and housing standards they require in their regulations to operate and would set the RCFE's capacity based on these standards.

[Insert a paragraph describing why your organization is supporting this bill or use the paragraph below and insert your organization's name.]

The growth in the older adult population will increase the demand for housing services that provide a level of care. Existing solutions are available to house older adults in a community setting. However, without additional flexibilities, the ability to utilize these solutions may be infeasible in the near future. With older Californians comprising the fastest growing population of unhoused and housing insecure adults in the state, we must recognize that solutions to homelessness will require addressing the specialized needs of an older population. [YOUR ORGANIZATION] believes we must act to ensure the viability of RCFEs and protect the future of aging in California.

We urge your support as the Chair of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

Sincerely,

[Signature]