



Karol Swartzlander, Executive Director  
Gavin Newsom, Governor

April 4, 2024

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**THE HONORABLE DR. JASMEET BAINS, Chair**  
**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE**

Re: **ASSEMBLY BILL 2620 (BAINS) – CCoA Sponsored**

Dear Chair Bains,

I am writing on behalf of the California Commission on Aging (CCoA) in sponsorship of **AB 2620 (Bains)**, as introduced on February 14, 2024.

CCoA is established in State statute as an independent advisory body and principal advocate before the Governor, the Legislature, and State and federal agencies on behalf of California's older adults. Commission members represent the State's cultural and geographic diversity, including professional expertise within and outside of the field of aging. We strongly support this bill which will allow the Commission to continue to advocate on behalf of older adults.

While CCoA is required in law to be composed of 25 commissioners, the full commission is rarely composed of more than 18 commissioners. Quorum requirements hold that a majority of the body, including vacancies, must be present at meetings. Administrative delays in the confirmation process and the regular "terming off" of members means that the total number of filled vacancies can vary. As a result, having just a few members with excused absences or unexpected emergencies can mean that the meeting cannot take place – even if well over a majority of the current members are in attendance.

AB 2620 changes the composition of the California Commission on Aging from 25 members to 18 members to more efficiently utilize the commission's powers as the state advocate for older adults. Consequently, the bill reduces the number of members the Governor is responsible for appointing from 19 to 12 and also reduces the number of these appointees that must be selected from lists provided by the local area agencies on aging advisory councils from nine to two.

The bill also expands the breadth of expertise and experience of potential commissioners by ensuring that both consumers and providers of services under the Older Americans Act are represented on the Commission. Additionally, the bill clarifies that CCoA is an advisory body for the purposes of teleconferencing flexibilities under the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act. This will ensure that CCoA can conduct meetings with flexibilities that allow commissioners who are overly burdened by travel, such as those with disabilities, to be able to participate in meetings.

As the principal state advocate for older Californians, the Commission on Aging has taken on the responsibility of addressing the need to prepare for a growing older adult population. This task requires the Commission to be an efficient and



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responsive organization that is reflective of the urgency to build an age-friendly state. AB 2620 ensures that the Commission can collaborate effectively with members, staff, and the public as they commit to providing a voice for every older Californian.

We urge your support as the Chair of the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care.

If you have any questions, you may contact me or Karol Swartzlander, CCoA Executive Director, at [karol.swartzlander@ccoa.ca.gov](mailto:karol.swartzlander@ccoa.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl Brown".

Cheryl Brown, Chair  
California Commission on Aging