



Karol Swartzlander, Executive Director  
Gavin Newsom, Governor

August 26, 2024

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**THE HONORABLE GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

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

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the California Commission on Aging (CCoA), **sponsor of AB 2620 (Bains)**, I urge your enactment of this measure. The bill passed the Assembly 65-0 and the Senate 33-0.

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.

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. As a result, having just a few members absence can mean that the meeting cannot take place – even if 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 consistent with its operational history.

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, making meetings more accessible, especially for commissioners with disabilities.



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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 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.

This bill is essential to maintaining the Commission's responsiveness and effectiveness as we work to build an age friendly California. We thank you for your continued support for older Californians and their families, and strongly encourage your enactment of AB 2620.

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