

AB 2620 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 BILL DODD, Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

RE: SUPPORT SB 1249 (ROTH) - [YOUR ORGANIZATION]

Dear Chair Dodd,

I am writing to urge your support of SB 1249, authored by Senator Roth, and sponsored by the California Commission on Aging. This bill advances priorities of the California Master Plan for Aging by modernizing and strengthening California's aging services network in preparation for 2030 when one quarter of the state's population will be 60 years of age or older. In addition to strengthening services, the bill also improves accountability and conforms to federal law.

On February 6, 2024, the federal Administration for Community Living released a final rule updating Older Americans Act (OAA) programs regulations that, among other things, clarified requirements for states to develop, in consultation with Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and other stakeholders, programmatic and fiscal performance measures, for services and activities performed by AAAs. States must achieve compliance by October 2025. Therefore, modifying statute in the current legislative session is critical.

California's aging network is comprised of 33 Planning and Service Areas (PSAs), each with its own Area Agency on Aging (AAA). This network of 33 local AAAs has remained largely unchanged since its inception nearly 50 years ago, despite the older adult population – and their needs, changing dramatically. Today, and into the future, California must proactively plan for increasing racial, ethnic, language, and sexual orientation-gender identity diversity; widening income gaps; rising rates of Alzheimer's disease; and changing family supports.

This bill builds on prior collaborative efforts to develop an ideal aging network by explicitly requiring in statute that the California Department of Aging consult with AAAs and stakeholders on key elements of the proposal.

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

SB 1249 ushers in a new era of a future-ready California aging network -- one that is inclusive and equitable, consistent, locally responsive, integrated, and performance-based. Older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers in our state deserve nothing less.

Thank you for supporting SB 1249.

Sincerely,

[Signature]