

# California Commission on Aging

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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor

Executive Director  
Karol Swartzlander

May 24, 2020

The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the Assembly  
Assembly Committee of the Whole

## **RE: May Revision Proposals that Impact Low-Income, Vulnerable, Older Adults - OPPOSE**

Dear Speaker Rendon and Members:

The California Commission on Aging (CCoA), established in the Welfare and Institutions Code as the principal advocate before the Governor, the Legislature and state agencies on behalf of California's older adults, **strongly opposes** May Revise proposals that reduce and eliminate state programs that protect low income, frail older adults, individuals with disabilities and their caregivers.

Californians over the age of 65 account for over 79% of total COVID-19 deaths; 42% of the deaths are related to skilled nursing facilities. Despite older adults being the most impacted group during the COVID-19 crisis, the May Revise proposes to slash the programs that serve older Californians in a way that is both ageist and shortsighted. Maintaining cost-effective, community-based health and social service programs and access to healthcare during a pandemic is more critical now than ever.

The CCoA opposes the following proposals:

- Elimination of Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS) program
- Elimination of Multi-Purpose Senior Services (MSSP)
- Reductions in funding for Senior Nutrition, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, the Aging & Disability Resource Connection programs and Independent Living Centers
- Elimination of the budget augmentation for Caregiver Resource Centers
- Restrictions in Medi-Cal eligibility and loss of optional benefits for older adults and persons with disabilities and cuts to monthly SSI/SSP benefit levels

Furthermore, the savings derived from curtailing these programs is far less than the costs the state will bear when these individuals are hospitalized or placed in nursing homes due to the lack of access to appropriate care – which could literally be a death sentence in the current environment.

We respectfully urge the rejection of the May Revise proposals that disproportionately impact the health and well-being of the most vulnerable older adults and individuals with disabilities in California.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler  
Chair