



Subject: Template in Support Letter for AB 2233 (Kalra) – Expand California’s MediCal Assisted Living Waiver Program

Date: 7.19.2018

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To Whom It May Concern:

Assisted living is largely a private pay option with monthly costs ranging from \$4,000 to \$15,000 depending on a resident’s care needs and the amenities offered by a facility. While assisted living may be a meaningful solution for seniors and their families to age within the community, many are finding the option unaffordable and are surprised to discover how little public assistance is available to help them.

The state of the ALW Program is insufficient given the current and future demand for affordable, senior care services. To date, there are over 2,500 individuals who have qualified, both medically and financially, for the ALW Program but who have been waitlisted. There are seniors whose medical needs qualify them for the program but whose incomes are not low enough to qualify them for MediCal nor high enough to afford private pay rates. Furthermore, the ALW Program is only operating in 15 of California’s 58 counties and a limited number of assisted living facilities participate in the program because of low reimbursement rates. On the whole, these limitations are leaving seniors and their families without access to much needed services. California can do better.

As a Californian, I support the goals of AB 2233, as stated—

- Increase waiver slots from 5,700 to 18,500.
- Expand the geographic availability of these slots beyond the 15 existing waiver counties - (Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, San Mateo, San Francisco, Santa Clara & Sonoma Counties).
- Explore expanding the financial eligibility requirements of the program.
- Modify facility reimbursement rates to accommodate for increases in the hourly minimum wage.
- Increase transparency for individuals on the waitlist.

I urge you to vote “Yes” on AB 2233.

Respectfully,

